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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
On a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest, how would you rate the CNMI Labor Department's performance in terms of placing unemployed workers in jobs?

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PHASE 5
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Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

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Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

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Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Book Deal
You knew it was coming: Sarah Palin is ready to tell her side.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 19

Reyes disappointed over choice of new zoning chief. PAGE 6
2 alien workers with Saipan-born kids sue Labor. **PAGE 13**

Fitial wants court proceedings in Fund issue suspended

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial asked Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios yesterday to join him in writing a letter to the NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees to consider an out-of-court mediation, but Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero separately said the parties in the ongoing court proceedings are "way past the negotiation stage."

The Retirement Fund sued the government over its failure to remit required employer contributions to the pension

See FITIAL on Page 4

Flu rumor scares off 30 mayors

JOB FAIR HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
An applicant fills up a registration form while William S. Reyes Elementary School principal Lynette Villagomez, right, briefs him about some of the requirements during the Public School System's job fair at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday. PSS says it has nearly 50 vacant positions for classroom teachers, reading resource teachers, and counselors but the number of visitors to the daylong job fair was only roughly 20 as of 1:30pm. ***See story on Page 14.***

RELATED NEWS
- 4-day Pacific Mayors' Conference kicks off today. **PAGE 2**

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Nearly half of the 70 mayors who have signified their intention to join the 2nd Annual Pacific Mayor's Conference cancelled their trip to Saipan due to a "swine flu" scare.

Paul M. McDonald, president of the Association of Pacific Islands Local Government, expressed regret that 30 mayors, mostly from the Philippines, cancelled their trips at the last minute upon learning of a text message that has

See FLU on Page 4

April visitor arrivals down by 12 percent

Tourist arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were down 12.47 percent last month compared to April 2008, bringing the fiscal year total to 2.72 percent fewer visitors than the same period in 2008.

Tenorio

According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, total visitor arrivals to the CNMI reached 27,833 last month compared to 31,800 in April 2008. Since the CNMI had 16 percent more airseats available in April 2009 than a year ago, the downturn is largely attributed to decreased travel demand dampened by the worldwide economic downturn.

"Although we lost the Northwest Airlines Kansai flight

See APRIL on Page 4

Souce: Marianas Visitors Authority **FISCAL YEAR 2009**

DHS proposing three regulation amendments for federalization

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security is proposing to amend its regulations to allow CNMI employers to be permitted during the federalization transition period, along with the creation of a new E2 CNMI investor classification and a CNMI-only transitional worker program.

DHS, in its latest semiannual summary of all current and projected rulemakings, reviews of existing regulations and completed actions, said the temporary provisions creating a new E2 CNMI investor classification and

See DHS on Page 4

Local

4-day Pacific Mayors' Conference kicks off today

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Delegates to the 2nd Annual Mayors' Conference start their discussions today on CNMI federalization matters, the military buildup in Guam and its economic benefits to the neighboring areas in the region and other pressing issues.

The main venue of the four-day conference (May 14-17) is at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Most of the participants—members of the Association of Pacific Islands Local Governments—are expected to arrive early this morning from different areas bordering the Pacific Rim, including Guam, the Philippines, Republic of Palau and the United States mainland.

They will joined at the main venue for breakfast hosted by the Office of Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

APILG president and Agana Heights Mayor Paul M. McDonald of Guam has been on island since Tuesday to meet with the conference steering committee, headed by Saipan councilor Antonia Tudela.

Before the conference proper at 11am, APILG officers will have an organizational meeting at 10am at the association's business room.

After McDonald's welcoming remarks, Bishop Tomas A. Camacho will do the benediction and invocation.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Agana Mayor Paul M McDonald of Guam, second from left, poses with some members of an advance party for the 2nd Annual Pacific Mayors' Conference, which kicks off today at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa. McDonald is the president of the Association of Pacific Islands Local Government.

Tudela, who is also the chairwoman of the Saipan Municipal Council, will deliver a message, followed by CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Inos.

Gov. Lazarus Kodep, chairman of the Governors' Association of Palau, will also deliver a solidarity message, followed by CNMI Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios.

Mayors Jose P. San Nicolas of Tinian, Joseph S. Inos of Rota and Valentin I. Taisacan of the Northern Islands will also speak.

Fitial will talk about federalization's economic and social impacts during a luncheon meeting that will be hosted by Inos.

Capt. Ulysses O. Zalamea, U.S. Navy deputy director of the U.S. Defense Department Joint Guam Program Office, will speak on the topic, "What Can We Expect to See, Now that the Military Buildup is Underway."

Senate President Reyes will focus on "What's in Store for the Future of the Commonwealth."

A trade fair will also be set up at the main venue.

The delegates will be attending dinner hosted by Palms Resort at PauPau beach in Marpi.

On the second day of the conference tomorrow, Judy Torres of the Marianas Visitors Authority will speak on the issue of restoring tourism in the CNMI while Joseph P. Bradley, senior vice president of the Bank of Guam, will discuss the topic "Islands in the Storm: The Global Economic Meltdown and the Western Pacific."

Law partners Maya B Kara and Bruce Mailman will speak about potential disruptions caused by federalization of the CNMI while Herbert Johnson of the Trades Academy of the Guam Contractors Association will talk about the urgency to recruit and train for the military buildup.

The delegates will be departing at 5pm tomorrow for Tinian where they will stay at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino. The trade fair will also be opened at the hotel on Saturday morning and at noon the mayors will be treated to a cockfight derby.

The delegates will have the opportunity to tour the island before departing back to Saipan on Sunday.

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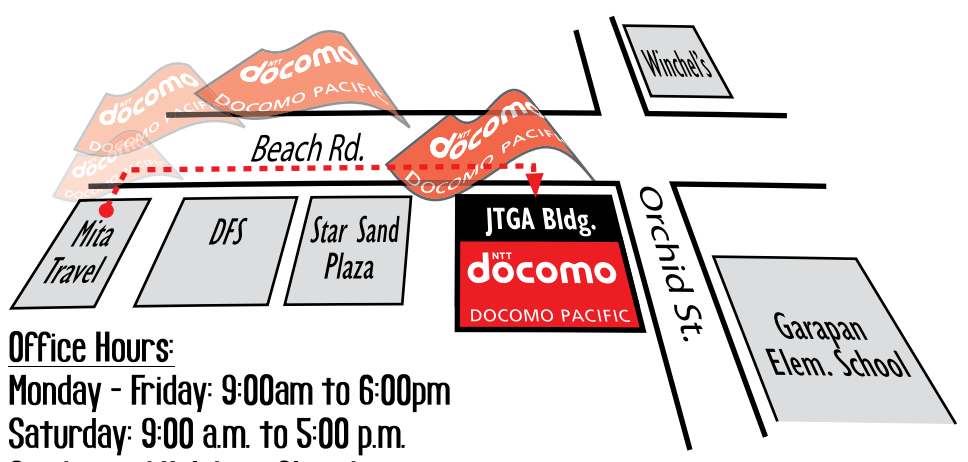

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday: 9:00am to 6:00pm
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday and Holidays: Closed

FROM FY 2008 TO PRESENT

Airport grants at $13M so far

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Federal Aviation Administration has provided CNMI airports approximately $13 million in grants from Fiscal Year 2008 up to the present.

Commonwealth Ports Authority executive director Efrain F. Camacho cited four major projects covered by the funds: the generator upgrade and the runway rehabilitation at the Saipan airport, the construction of a parallel taxiway on Tinian, and the runway shoulder on Rota.

On top of these approved funding, Camacho said the FAA may also provide an additional $5 million under the stimulus package of President Barack Obama. The amount, he said, would be used to augment the funds for the rehabilitation of the Saipan runway.

CPA recently completed the repair of its two main backup generators at the airport and is in the process of procuring a third generator—all funded by the federal agency.

Runway rehab

CPA will soon begin work on the runway rehabilitation once the conversion of the taxiway is completed at the Saipan International Airport.

Camacho described this project as one of the most critical, to be able to proceed with the main runway rehabilitation.

Rehabilitation work, he said, is expected to begin in early 2010 and will be done within 250 calendar days.

During this time, he said the temporary runway will be used for majority of aircraft traffic. However, no flights will be cancelled as the main runway will be available for aircrafts needing a longer runway.

'Similar concerns'

Camacho had just returned back from a Majuro trip where he represented the CNMI.

Funded by the FAA, he was asked to do a presentation on the status of the ongoing projects at each airport in the Commonwealth.

Camacho said similar concerns were raised by participants in operating their respective airports, from funding to staffing concerns.

"The workshop was helpful in knowing that all other airports in the area have similar problems. …Operating an airport is very expensive and the volume is not always there to support operation. Yet, unlike the U.S. mainland or other big places with alternative ways to move people and goods…island nations have very limited means of moving people and goods. Usually it's the airport," Camacho said.

Critical role

He said FAA plays a very critical role not only in keeping all airports safe but in providing much needed funds.

In fact, he said, in many instances certain things would not be possible for NMI airports without FAA's help.

Just recently, Camacho said, FAA approved funding for the procurement of aircraft fire fighting rescue trucks for the CNMI, Palau, Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

FAA, he added, will also be providing funds for the ARFF Training Center on Saipan to expand the facility and include training for maintenance of ARFF equipment.

"This is new and one that is badly needed in our area. Saipan will be playing a very important role as our area grows," Camacho said, citing the expected positive impact of the military buildup in Guam on the CNMI.

'Alien workers may still return to CNMI sans US visa until Nov. 28'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI Division of Immigration assured yesterday that alien workers who go home to their respective countries for vacation or other purposes will still be allowed to return to the CNMI even they don't have a U.S. visa—at least until Nov. 28, 2009.

Acting Immigration director Antonio P. Sablan said that immigration authority remains with the local office due to the 180-day delay in implementing the transition period for federal immigration in the CNMI.

"So everything prior to Nov. 28, 2009, shall remain the same," Sablan said.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano had announced in April that the June 1 start date of the federalization law will be delayed by 180 days or until Nov. 28, 2009.

The decision came about after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan asked the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for the delay.

Sablan had cited the lack of sufficient funding; delays in the issuance of regulations; and the potential for disruption to families as reasons to delay the law.

Fitial had also asked Napolitano to review the interim final rules for the joint Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program and put off the start of federalization implementation.

Fitial cited the importance for Homeland Security to have ample time to establish the necessary ports of entry before the law takes effect.

Many alien workers had decided to take their vacation before June 1, afraid that they may not be able come back because they don't have U.S. visa.

Even with the 180-day delay, *Saipan Tribune* still received some inquiries from alien workers whether they are indeed still permitted to come back to the CNMI after June 1 or before Nov. 28.

Immigration's Sablan assured foreign workers that as long as they have a valid CNMI entry permit and valid passport with them when they travel, they should not have any problem leaving and returning.

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Mobil hikes, then rolls back prices

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Mobil Oil Marianas raised its pump prices by 15 cents a gallon on Tuesday morning, only to roll them back yesterday morning.

Gasoline stations yesterday said Mobil hiked its regular, premium and diesel gasoline by 15 cents on Tuesday morning.

However, at 10am yesterday, they were notified of a roll back—meaning the prices went back to their old levels.

Thus, Mobil's pump prices remain the same as their prices since the previous hike in February.

Mobil's self-serve regular unleaded gasoline remains at $2.97 a gallon, while super unleaded gasoline is at 3.27 a gallon.

Shell gasoline stations said they have not yet received notice of price change as of 5pm yesterday. Shell's self-serve regular gasoline is also $2.97 a gallon, while self-serve premium is $3.29 a gallon.

Mobil Oil Marianas raised its pump prices by 15 cents a gallon on Tuesday morning, only to roll them back yesterday morning.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Red flag up at Rota beach

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on the Teweksberry Beach on Rota and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

DEQ said samples collected from this location were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainages water from 12 locations on Rota. Marine Water Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=4 and http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/wq/beachcloseweeklyresults.htm. Interested individuals and organizations may also receive e-mail notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, send an e-mail to environment@deq.gov.mp.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

DHS

From Page 1

CNMI-only transitional worker classification are "necessary to reduce the potential harm to the CNMI economy before these foreign workers and investors are required to convert into U.S. immigrant or nonimmigrant visa classifications."

Public Law 110-229 or the Consolidated Natural Resources Act applies federal immigration to the CNMI originally set for June 1, 2009, but was extended to Nov. 28, 2009.

Although the CNMI is subject to most U.S. laws, the CNMI has administered its own immigration system under the terms of its 1976 Covenant with the United States.

The full texts of the proposed regulations, however, have yet to be published.

DHS defines a CNMI-only transitional worker as "an alien worker who is ineligible for another classification under the Immigration and Nationality Act and who performs services or labor for an employer in the CNMI."

It said the new CNMI-only classification will be in effect for the duration of the transition period.

"This proposed rule will also establish employment authorization incident to this status," said DHS.

The third proposed rule implements various provisions of the CNRA by removing reference to the CNMI as a territory or possession of the United States and inserting "CNMI" in all references to the geographical "United States."

DHS said this rule also "proposes that employers in the CNMI be permitted for employment eligibility verification purposes to accept certain CNMI-issued documents as evidence of both identity and work authorization for a two-year period starting from the Transition Program effective date."

"This rule further proposes to specify that the provisions of section 208 and section 209(b) of the Immigration Nationality Act shall not apply to persons present or arriving in the CNMI during the transition period," DHS said.

It added that the rule proposes specifications to the inspection, admission and/or removal of aliens as it pertains to referral to an immigration judge in the CNMI during and after the transition period.

"These conforming regulations are necessary to ensure proper implementation of and regulatory compliance with the statute," said DHS.

APRIL

From Page 1

in late March 2009, we've also seen the addition of a Narita nighttime flight and Asiana Kansai flight over the last year, so we actually had more seats than in April 2008," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Unfortunately, what we're experiencing is the negative effect of the economic downturn on outbound travel from our primary markets."

Japan, which has seen continued arrival growth for a number of months, took its first dip in April 2009, losing 10 percent with only 14,214 visitors compared to April 2008. In its April report, the Japanese Cabinet Office maintained its stance that the economy is "worsening rapidly." The Japanese yen also depreciated versus other major currencies in April, ending at 98.18 yen to the U.S. dollar. Japanese outbound travel was down 3 percent in March 2009 compared to last March.

Arrivals from Korea posted a sixth straight month of double-digit decline to minus 25 percent in April 2009, or 6,576 visitors. Overall, outbound departures of Korean travelers dropped 29 percent in March 2009 compared to March 2008.

"Our economic overview reports show that tentative signs of a bottoming out of the downturn are emerging in Korea's credit, export and output data, although substantial risks still remain," said Tenorio. "The [Korean] won's sharp depreciation over the last year has prompted Koreans to cut back on overseas travel."

According to a survey titled "Ask 2,113 Consumers" conducted by *The Korea Travel Times*, Hong-Kong and Macao, which are famous frequent independent travel—or F.I.T.—destinations, show a decrease in the number of package trips. On the other hand, Saipan, Guam and Southeast Asia are receiving more package tours from Korea. According to this survey, Saipan is ranked 7th in the world's 2009 Top 11 Most Satisfying Destinations (2009), which are Spain (88.8 percent), Malaysia (87.8 percent), New Zealand (87.7 percent), Macao (87.4 percent), Turkey (86.6 percent), Canada (85.7 percent), Saipan (85.2 percent), USA (85.2 percent), Switzerland (85.1 percent), Singapore (85 percent) and Guam (84 percent).

Russia registered 7 percent growth in April to 731 visitors. China also posted its first increase for the year, a 15-percent increase to 162 visitors. Other increases included Guam (9 percent to 1,669) and Other Areas (9 percent to 2,148).

Arrivals from the United States dropped 53 percent to 743, largely due to lack of military ship visits; in April 2008 there were five military vessels. Losses were also seen from the Philippines (-14 percent to 162) and Taiwan (-22 percent to 7). ***(MVA)***

FLU

From Page 1

been circulating on Saipan since Tuesday afternoon about unconfirmed reports of cases of the dreaded H1N1 flu virus in Guam.

Rumors have it that three cases of confirmed H1N1 cases have surfaced in Guam. A staff of the *Saipan Tribune*'s Editorial Department also received a text message saying two persons have been put on quarantine.

The CNMI Department of Public Health was quick to scotch this rumor, assuring yesterday that the there is no truth to this text message.

Pedro T. Untalan, DPH Deputy Secretary for Hospital Administration, said they immediately contacted the Emergency Operations Center in Guam Tuesday afternoon to verify the rumor and learned that the text message was a hoax.

"We were told that it had no merit. The rumor was circulated using the text messaging process and it spread like wildfire in Guam and the CNMI," Untalan said.

He explained that the CNMI DPH works closely with the Guam DPH and the Guam state level Emergency Operations Center in sharing critical and pertinent information about this issue.

A *Pacific Daily News* report yesterday said that Guam's Department of Public Health and Social Services is working with the Department of Defense in monitoring two people with flu-like symptoms. The individuals recently traveled from an area with confirmed cases.

Fewer delegates

The four-day Pacific mayors' conference kicks off at 6am today at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Mcdonald, who is the Mayor of Agana Heights, Guam, said only 40 mayors are expected to join the event, including 12 from Guam. He said there were 19 Guam mayors who originally wanted to come but seven also cancelled at the last minute because of the flu scare.

He said a total of 75 delegates would come from Guam alone but the number could have been bigger if not for the H1N1 flu issue.

"It's unfortunate that we have this," said McDonald, who assured, however, that the event would push through despite several obstacles.

He said this would definitely lower the number of delegates, compared to the 300 who attended the first conference in Guam last year.

Some 33 mayors from four provinces in the Philippines, including 12 from Laguna, eight each from Batangas and Bulacan and five from Zambales, are expected to arrive today.

Another obstacle the Philippine delegates faced, McDonald said, was the longer trip and the more expensive airfare due to visa requirements.

He said U.S. Immigration does not allow non-U.S. visa holders to transit via Guam.

Most of the Philippine delegation went through Japan or Korea before arriving on Saipan, making for a costlier flight—about $800 instead of just $300 if they pass through Guam.

McDonald said some of the Philippine delegation who have U.S. visas will actually be coming from the U.S. mainland because they had just watched the Manny Pacquiao-Ricky Hatton fight in Las Vegas.

But he said that after arriving in Guam they could not be accommodated on the trip to Saipan due to the smaller planes of Freedom Air and Cape Air.

FITIAL

From Page 1

system. Phase one of the hearing began in April, but Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo has yet to decide how much is owed by the government to the Retirement Fund.

In separate interviews yesterday, Reyes said he supports the idea, while Palacios said the House leadership has yet to decide on the governor's request today.

"I feel the court would rather see the two parties trying to mediate the issues, to solve the problems, than go to court," the Senate president said.

He added that with the Executive and Legislative branches working toward mediation, they hope the Fund's board of trustees will also support the idea.

"I believe the idea is for the chairman of the Retirement Fund board to write to the court—on behalf of the Fund, the Executive Branch and the Legislature—to suspend the ongoing court proceedings and work things out by themselves with the help of a mediator," he said.

Not possible

The chairman of the Fund board of trustees, Juan T. Guerrero, in an e-mail, said what the governor is asking is "not possible."

"That is not possible as any deviation from the court proceedings would not be in the best interest of the Fund. We are way past the negotiation stage. The court proceeding is for damages confirmation. I am not sure why mediate now? It appears that the administration just realized that the government liability is bigger than the annual budget," Guerrero said.

Government lawyers in the case have said the government owes the Retirement Fund $213 million, while the Fund said it's $215 million.

Press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr. said the governor is exploring all possible options, including mediation, to address the Retirement Fund issue.

He said the Fitial administration "will continue to engage the Fund, the Legislature and the public in finding solutions to appropriately resolve this very pressing financial matter for the Commonwealth."

"The governor will work with all parties to find workable solutions to a very difficult problem. …It should not be surprising that the governor would meet with the Fund and the Legislature to work on this issue," he added.

New trustees

Fitial's meeting with Reyes and Palacios came a day after the governor appointed two new Fund trustees: Adelina C. Roberto and Francisco P. Rosario.

The governor's nominations require Senate confirmation.

Guerrero said the Retirement Fund was "kept in the dark on the new appointments."

He, however, said he is "confident that Ms. Roberto and Mr. Rosario would be contributing appointees… But other than Juan Lizama's resignation, the Fund is unaware of any member stepping down."

Press secretary Reyes said the appointment letters were sent to Roberto and Rosario on Tuesday, and to the Senate yesterday.

Omnibus bill

Meanwhile, the NMIRF Working Group chaired by Rep. Ray N. Yumul has been fine tuning an omnibus bill that seeks to reform certain provisions of the Retirement Fund laws and regulations. At least $109 million in savings are expected to help prolong the lifespan of the Fund once the yet-to-be-filed omnibus bill to help the pension system becomes law.

Among other things, the omnibus bill is expected to reduce the Retirement Fund's unfunded liability, now at over $549 million.

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AXE Shower Gel 12oz.
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Dove Body Lotion 8.5oz.
$5.99

Filler Paper 200 ct.
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Notebook 70ct.
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$83.99

Zojirushi Rice Cooker 1.8 Liter
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Economy BBQ Grill 16'
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Square Wagon Grill 21 Inch
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Living Stand Fan 16 inch
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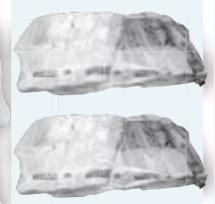
5 Gal. Cooler Jug
$15.99

Rubbermaid Snap Topper
$2.99

Electric Water Dispenser
$84.99

Supermarket

Chicken Leg Quarter 22lbs Limit 1 case
$15.99/cs.



Pork Spareribs 20lb. Limit 1 case
$15.49/cs.

Diamond G Calrose Rice 50lbs. Limit 1 bag
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Mata Rose Calrose Rice 40lbs.
$20.99

Hormel Spam 12oz. Less Salt Limit 6
$1.99

ACE Diamond Tuna in Veg. Oil Limit 6
99¢

Kikkoman Soy Sauce 1.6 Liter Limit 2
$3.79

Sapporo Ichiban Ramen 3.5oz Limit 2 case.
$7.75

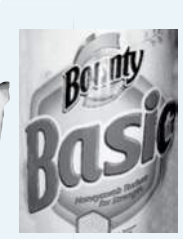
Folgers Instant Coffee Jar 12oz. Limit 2
$6.99

Penecocan Mineral Water 300ml. Limit 2
$4.99

Coke Coca Cola 12oz. Limit 2 case
$11.99/cs.

Joy Dishwashing Liquid Lemon Twist 90lz. Limit 1
$5.99

Charmin Tissue Ultra Strong 24roll Limit 1
$5.99



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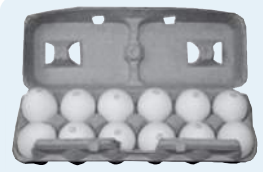

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Reyes disappointed over choice of new zoning chief

Zoning board says no final decision yet

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Pete P. Reyes expressed "disappointment" yesterday over the Zoning Board's choice of an "outsider" to become the new administrator, instead of an individual who is already on the islands.

"It doesn't matter whether the appointed one is a Chamorro, Carolinian, or a white American or any other, as long as he or she has made the CNMI his or her home…I am very disappointed that the Zoning board chose to recruit someone from outside," Reyes told *Saipan Tribune.*

Zoning Board chair Henry S. Hofschneider, in a separate interview yesterday, said the board has not made a final decision yet but an offer has already been made to Victor Barrett, from Arizona, to become the new administrator.

Hofschneider said Barrett's air fare and all his expenses while on Saipan this week are his personal expenses, and the board has not and will not pay for anything.

"Victor Barrett wants to meet with the board and staff, the regulatory agencies [including the Historic Preservation Office, the Coastal Resource Management, and the Division of Environmental Quality], and also to see Saipan," he said.

Hofschneider said the board evaluated the applications submitted "fair and square."

"And how did Mr. Reyes know that Mr. Barrett will not make Saipan his home?" he asked.

Reyes said former CNMI Resident Representative to Washington, D.C. Pete A. Tenorio, who was also one of the negotiators of the Covenant between the Northern Marianas and the United States, was one of those who applied for the post of zoning administrator.

"Mr. Pete A. Tenorio is qualified for the job. …Who's going to say he's not qualified? It's very insulting for qualified people like Mr. Tenorio to be chosen over those who are from outside the CNMI," Reyes said.

Hofschneider earlier said of the 20 applications they received, all except for one were from the U.S. mainland.

The Zoning Office's administrator post has been vacant since April when Steve Tilley relocated to the U.S. mainland.

The Zoning board decided on Victor Barrett during its May 7 board meeting.

After the meeting, Hofschneider said Barrett's strengths include new urban master planning, creative planning solutions, project permitting and approval, client and vendor relations, authentic architectural design, and public relation. He added that Barrett has a background in sustainable design, and has extensive experience in development of sensitive coastal, flood plain and remote sites, and helped towns and cities draft proposed zoning and land use control ordinances, regulations and laws.

Muña: Stimulus money will save CUC consumers from rate increases

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The anticipated infusion of federal stimulus money may save Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers from further increases in water and wastewater rates, according to executive director Antonio Muña

Last month, the Public Utilities Commission approved the 40-percent hike in CUC's water rates but slightly cut down by 3 cents the current power rates to bridge the gap between CUC's $5.9 million water revenue deficit and its statutory duty to establish water rates.

Although an 81 percent across-the-board increase for water rates was earlier approved, half of that was suspended until next month to allow the government to identify alternative sources of money.

"We're hopeful on the stimulus package. This would help decrease the extent of any increases to the existing rates," Muña told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, adding that CUC had submitted applications for both competitive and non-competitive grants.

The official said CUC is also looking into tapping local and CIP funding as alternative options to assist the consuming public.

In the event substitute funds are identified by CUC, half of the approved 81 percent hike in water rates would remain suspended until April 2010, when the full rate increase is expected to automatically go into effect.

The increase in both water and wastewater rates was identified as a means for CUC to be in compliance with the stipulated orders it signed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The stipulated orders mandate CUC to comply with federal water and wastewater regulations.

As of yesterday, Muña said CUC is on track to meet the deadlines set in the order.

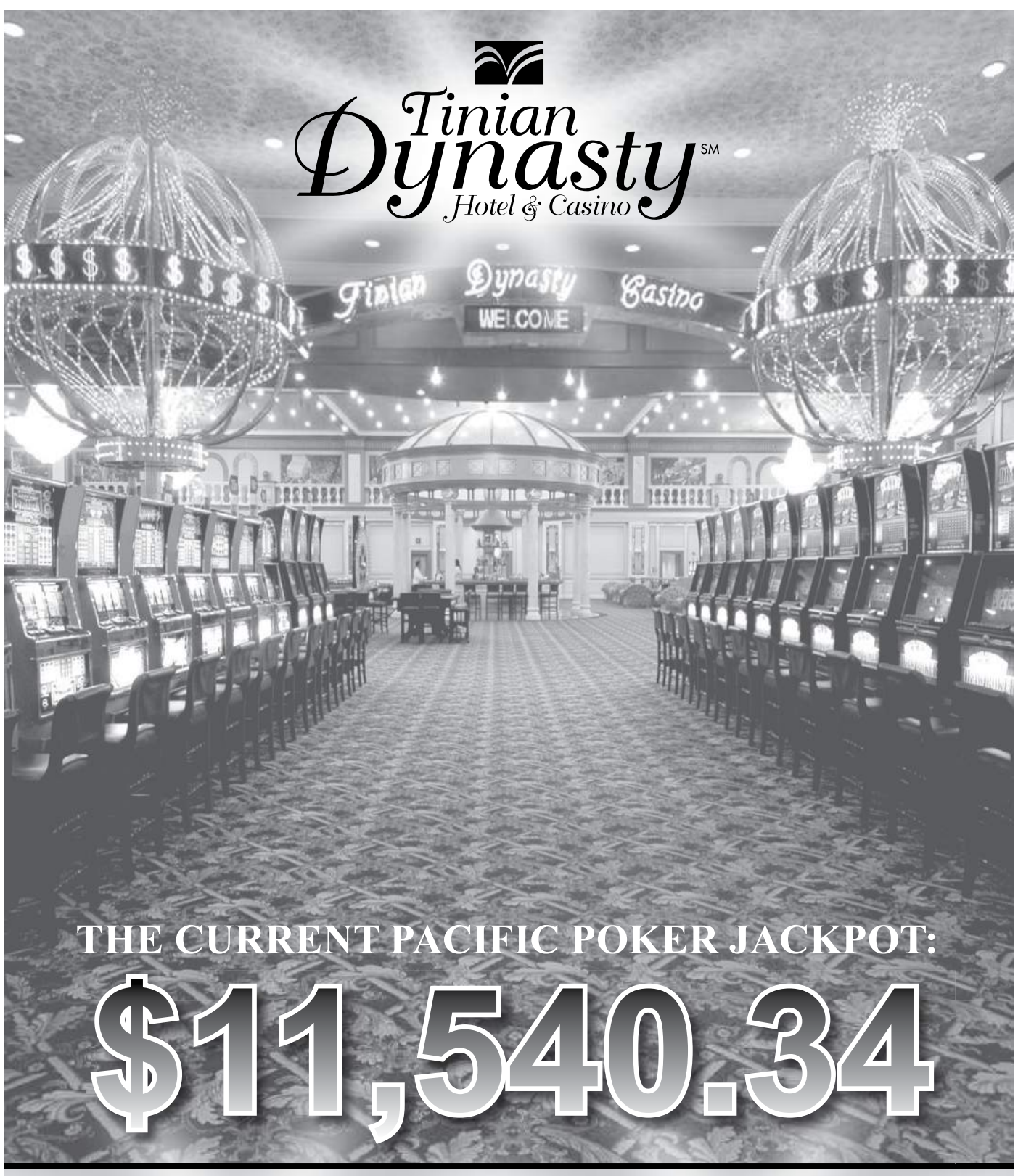
"To date, we are in compliance with the deliverables," Muña said, alluding to the reports submitted to EPA.

Although the rate increases were not EPA directives but are CUC initiatives to sustain operation, he believes that this is one way to address the agency's huge funding shortfall, which has been in existence for many years.

"Based on current rates, the revenue for water and wastewater is insufficient," he said, adding that suspension of any rate increase could result in failure to comply with the stipulated orders.

The April rate increase in water would cover 60 percent of CUC's water revenue deficit.

The federal stipulated order contains a series of fines and penalties that can be imposed, ranging from $250 daily up to $5,000 a day for non-compliance with the deadlines.



US govt asks for an extension to respond in Villagomez case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government wants more time to respond to the motions filed by former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and his co-defendants for a new trial.

David J. Lujan, the lead counsel for Villagomez, is opposed to an extension and has asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to deny the request.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Eric O'Malley asked the court on Tuesday for a one-week extension to file the U.S. government's response to Villagomez's motions filed last May 1.

"This is the first request for an extension. It is made because more time is needed to respond to the multiple motions," O'Malley said.

This extension, the prosecutor added, should have no effect on previously scheduled dates.

In Villagomez's response, Lujan said the U.S. government, with its vast resources, manpower, and technology at its disposal, has failed to cite any compelling reason why its request for an extension should be granted.

Further, Lujan said, the U.S. government failed to file a brief, memorandum, or, at a minimum, an affidavit supporting its motion.

The prosecution and the defense, on the other hand, have agreed to request the court that the hearing on the defendants' motions set for June 4, 2009 be continued to June 22, 2009.

Villagomez filed motions for a new trial and to disqualify U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson from any further proceedings in the case.

He and his sister, co-defendant Joaquina Santos, also filed a joint motion for judgment of acquittal. Villagomez's brother-in-law, James Santos, through counsel, joined in the motions.

Last April 24, jurors rendered a guilty verdict on Villagomez, and the Santos couple for conspiracy to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery. Their sentencing was set for July 28, 2009.

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NMC hosts free mini-information session

Those interested in furthering their education and advancing their professional careers are encouraged to attend the Northern Marianas College's free mini-information session on Monday, May 18, 2009, at Room D-1 at the College's As Terlaje campus, from 5:30pm to 7pm.

Faculty, staff, and students from the different degree and certificate programs, as well as counseling, financial aid, and admissions staff will be on hand to answer questions. Other current students will also be speaking about their experiences at NMC.

Individuals who attend the free mini-information session will qualify to have their application fee and their placement test fees waived for the summer and fall 2009 semesters. This represents a savings of about $75 for either semester.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in elementary education, associate degrees in business, liberal arts, nursing, natural resource management, criminal justice, hospitality management, and more. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

The free information session is open to everyone, including graduating seniors and their parents, government and private sector employees, international students, and members of the general public who are interested in learning more about the programs at NMC. ***(NMC)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman townhall meetings

Townhall meetings at the Kagman Community Center are as follows:

■ Saturday, May 16, 10am-12pm: Rosemond Santos

■ June: Heinz Hofschneider and Arnold Palacios

Other interested candidates may e-mail kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com to schedule their townhall meetings. The Kagman Kommunidat Association does not endorse any candidate. Come and be informed. Listen to the candidates and have them address your concerns. ***(PR)***

Stimulus funding for Kagman

Department of Commerce Secretary Michael Ada will be having a public meeting at the Kagman Community Center on Monday, May 18, at 7pm regarding stimulus funding for the Kagman area. All are invited to share concerns and ask questions. ***(PR)***

MMAC Team Ahu to host garage sale

2009 Marianas March Against Cancer's Team Ahu will be having a garage sale fundraising event on Saturday, May 16, and Sunday, May 17, 2009, from 8am to 4pm, between Atool Pl. and Benavente's Apartment in As Lito (directional signs will be available).

Team Ahu is inviting the entire community to help support their efforts in raising funds for the battle against cancer by stopping by their garage sale and purchasing various items that will be on sale. There will be signs directing you to the venue. All proceeds raised will go toward the 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer. For more information contact Vivian Taitano at 234-1234 or via email at vtaitano@hyattsaipan.com. ***(PR)***

MHS presentation on AP courses today

Marianas High School AP teachers will be giving a general presentation on Advance Placement course offerings at MHS today, May 14, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm in the cafeteria.

All interested students and parents are invited to attend this information session to gain a better understanding of what is available and what to expect when taking these rigorous and challenging courses. For questions and concerns contacts 237-3206. ***(PR)***

Kagman High activities

Attention to parents and guardians of Kagman High School: Progress reports will be distributed on Tuesday, May 19, 2009, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm. The monthly PTSA meeting will be held on this same day, from 6pm to 7pm at the school cafeteria. The meeting will also be held via video teleconferencing for all parents, guardians, staff and students. Parents from Marpi, As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag, and Sadog Tasi can go to GTC Elementary School to attend the meeting. For more information call 237-3840 or 237-3832; fax 664-3788. ***(PR)***

Kagman Elementary calendar of events

This is to inform parents and guardians of Kagman Elementary School students about the following upcoming important events:

■ May 15: Early dismissal of students at 12pm, 4th Quarter Mid-Progress report distribution to parents and guardians at 1:30pm-4:30pm.

■ May 18-22: PSS Standard Based Assessment Week for the following students in each affected grade levels: 3rd, 4th, 5th grades and also to include CCLHS in 4th grade level. Students attendance is highly encouraged. SBA is from 8am to 10am, Monday-Friday.

■ Registration is ongoing for SY 2009-10 for Kinder to 5th grade students. Parents and guardians must provide the following: Birth certificate, health clearance, health insurance, map of their residence, and legal guardianship from the court in order for any student to be registered without the biological parents. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-DEQ-091

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MAY 22, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) COMPUTER SYSTEMS FOR THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **FRANK M. RABAULIMAN**
DIRECTOR OF DEQ

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-CHC-082

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 02, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"MEDICAL COORDINATOR PROVIDER IN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 9:00 A.M. ON MAY 18, 2009 AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER CONFERENCE ROOM. **ALL INQUIRIES** MAY BE DIRECTED TO **MR. RONALD D. SABLAN**, MANAGER, MEDICAL REFERRAL SERVICES BY FAX TO (670) 236-8604 OR VIA E-MAIL AT cmedrefspn@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **MAY 21, 2009 CLOSE OF BUSINESS.**

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/s/ **JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ**
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP09-CGC-087

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 28, 2009 • TIME: 4:00 P.M.

"PROFESSIONAL CLINIC SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY GUIDANCE CENTER"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY IN LOWER BASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MS. JOSEPHINE T. SABLAN, DIRECTOR OR MS. JENNIFER FUREY-MARATITA, ACTING CLINICAL SERVICES MANAGER BY FAX TO (670) 323-6580 OR VIA E-MAIL AT cgc1@dphcgc.com NO LATER THAN **MAY 18, 2009 CLOSE TO BUSINESS.**

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **JOSEPH K.P. VILLAGOMEZ**
SECRETARY OF HEALTH

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

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INVITATION TO BID
Bid No. CPA SS-09-V

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Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
Saipan International Airport
2nd Floor Arrival Building

Efrain F. Camacho, P.E.
Executive Director

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 14, 1999

Fair wage act pushed back

The implementation of the Resident Workers Fair Compensation Act may be delayed further after the Attorney General's Office pushed back the adoption of the rules and regulations that would put into motion Public Law 11.-74. "The regulations currently promulgated will not be adopted without significant modifications, therefore, these will be repromulgated," said Nancy Gottfried, assistant attorney general. According to Gottfried, the comment period, which ends on May 19, 1999, will be extended for two more weeks. She asked the public to submit all recommended changes to the rules and regulations to the Attorney General's Office or the Department of Labor and Immigration.

BOE backs moves to mandate Kindergarten

The Board of Education will lend support to a legislative initiative that would seek to amend the CNMI Constitution to make the free education available even to five-year-old children in order to ensure the continuity of the Kindergarten program. In yesterday's meeting, board members gave their nod to a proposal supporting a legislation that is being prepared by Rep. Malua Peters to amend the Constitution. The existing mandate covers only children from 6 to 16 years old, which places the Kindergarten program in jeopardy during times of budgetary constraints. Board member Thomas Pangelinan's committee on curriculum and instruction earlier adopted the vote to support the age amendment for free education.

May 14, 2001

Better child care at CHC

Problems associated with the persistent increase in the number of critically-ill children in the Northern Marianas will decline once the Department of Public Health sets up its own state-of-the-art Pediatric Intensive Care Unit. The proposed setting up of PICU earned the support of health officials amid problems on the increasing number of pediatric patients who were forced to be sent off-island despite their inability to travel. With PICU, health officials are optimistic that off-island referrals for critically-ill children will be reduced. It is also anticipated to help reduce complaints of neglect involving infant-patients.

DOF assures on-time release of tax rebates

The government has enough funds to be disbursed when the initial batch of tax rebates and refunds are mailed out, Finance Secretary Lucy Dlg. Nielsen disclosed Friday Ms. Nielsen is confident that rebates will be released in the next several weeks as the Revenue and Taxation Division completes its review of income tax returns filed by taxpayers. In an interview with reporters, the secretary said DOF is now wrapping up the initial process towards the issuance of tax rebates and all checks will be issued on a regular basis.

May 14, 2002

Cing resigns from Senate leadership

Enraged over what he perceived as an insult to him and his committee, Senate Vice President David M. Cing expressed his intention yesterday to resign from the upper chamber's leadership, saying, "Can I trust my leadership [again] after what happened?" This comes soon after Senate Floor Leader Joaquin G. Adriano made a motion to recall and reconsider an earlier vote they made rejecting the nomination of former senator Edward U. Maratita to the board of directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority. The motion, which Adriano made during the resumption of yesterday's session, was defeated during a voice vote, with six voting "No" and only three voting "Yes." Those who voted to recall Maratita's earlier rejection were Sens. Adriano, Ricardo S. Atalig, and Diego Songao.

Senate rejects Maratita for CDA

In an unprecedented move, the Senate twice rejected yesterday the nomination of former senator Edward U. Maratita to sit on the board of directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority. The rejections stem primarily from an existing loan that Maratita had taken out from the CDA. Due to confidentiality requirements, the loan amount was not made public during the session. Senate Vice President David M. Cing, who is chairman of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, recommended rejecting Maratita's nomination.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

A mediation alternative to solving Fund dilemma

As the dispute drags on between the Legislative and Executive Branches on one side, and the Judicial Branch on the other side, over an appropriate solution to the difficulties faced by the Retirement Fund, perhaps mediation might be a good alternative.

Mediation seems to have been embraced by the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, for example, and is mandatory for many of its cases. In the Ninth Circuit, the mediators are all experienced attorneys who come from a variety of backgrounds. All are highly trained in mediation and negotiation and have been mediating for the court for from eight to 20 years. These mediators settle quite a lot of complicated cases, at least as reported by the Ninth Circuit's website.

If mediation can succeed in the Ninth Circuit, where appeals of complex cases are under consideration, perhaps mediation would be a good avenue for the parties in the Retirement Fund case now pending before Judge Govendo.

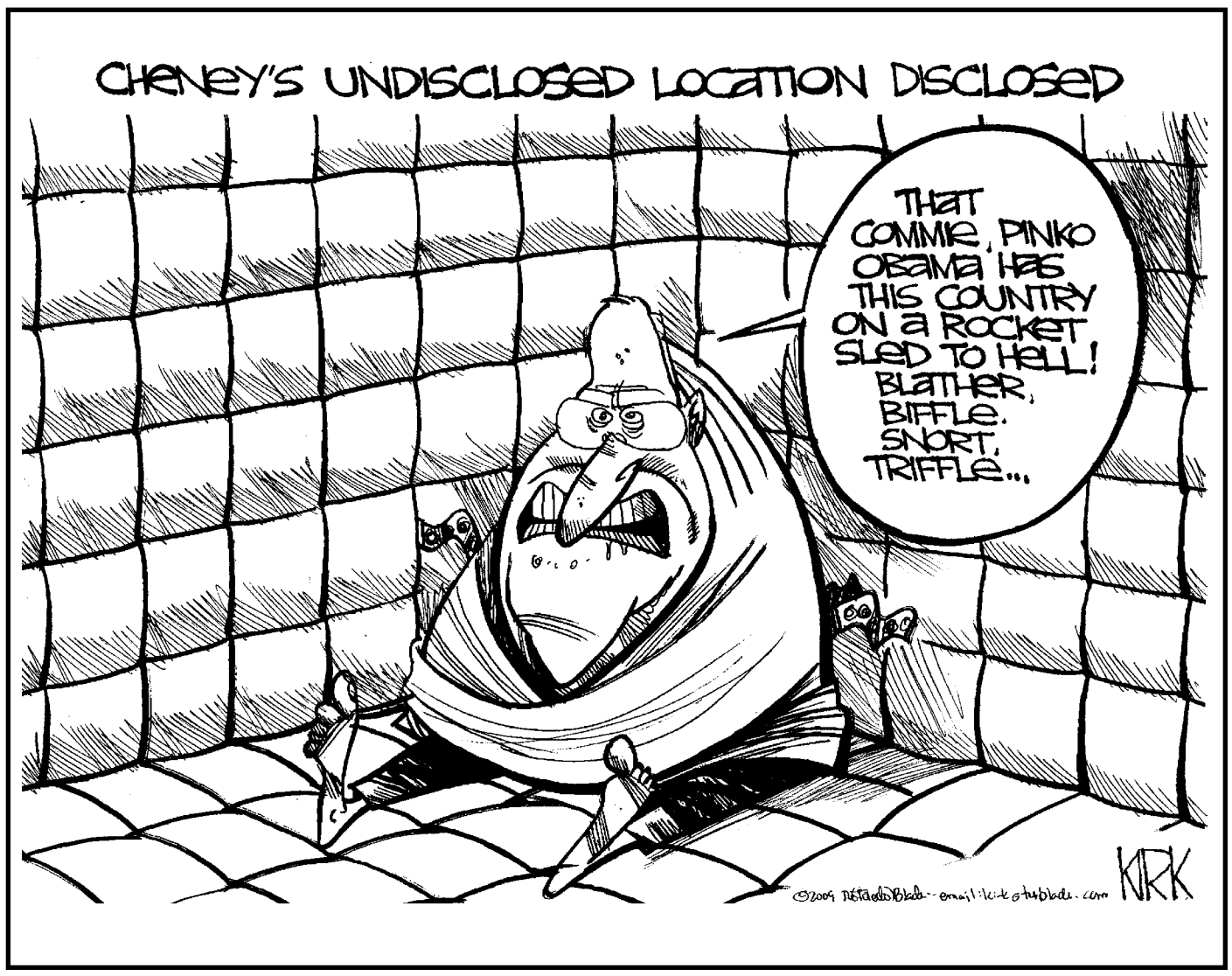
Mediators are independent neutrals, often but not always lawyers, who have been trained to use appropriate techniques and skills to open and improve the dialogue between the parties. Mediators aim to help the parties reach an agreement on the disputed matter. Because the mediator is neutral and experienced, the mediator may be able to suggest ways of resolving the dispute that the parties have not thought about. Mediators can also sometimes help one party see the merit in the other party's position such that a mutually agreed solution can be reached.

The activity of mediation in itself appeared in very ancient times. Historians claim to find early cases in Phoenician commerce, and the practice developed in Ancient Greece, then also in Roman times. In the U.S. mainland, mediation has long been used to resolve many different kinds of disputes because, when the parties essentially resolve the dispute themselves, they are usually more practical and more satisfied than when a judge uses arbitrary court rules and procedures to settle the dispute.

Here in the Commonwealth, we have a judge who is considering ousting the Legislature from its role in allocating Commonwealth revenues; we have retirees who desperately need a practical, long-term solution for their benefits; and we have a Retirement Fund whose board members are charged with a fiduciary responsibility to manage well. The board members should welcome mediation because participating in mediation is carrying out their fiduciary responsibilities to the fullest. Retirees should welcome mediation because a practical solution will last and can be depended upon. The Legislature and the Executive Branch should welcome mediation because the retirement problem urgently needs a solution and an experienced mediator just might be able to get there. And Judge Govendo should welcome mediation because, if the parties can agree with the help of a professional mediator, then long appeals to the Commonwealth Supreme Court, and beyond, can be avoided.

It seems like all that is needed here is for one party to say to the other, "Let's consider mediation." The court case can be

See A MEDIATION on Next Page


CHENEY'S UNDISCLOSED LOCATION DISCLOSED
THAT COMMIE, PINKO OBAMA HAS THIS COUNTRY ON a ROCKET SLED TO HELL! BLATHER, BIFFLE. SNORT, TRIFFLE...
KIRK

Getting more done as a PARTIER

By Rik and Janel Villegas

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

You've probably met those rare individuals who seem to get a lot accomplished with little effort. They have the ability to hone in on those things that are most important, and therefore expend less energy on activities that create busy work, but get little accomplished. If you have a lot of projects to complete or many demands on your time, it helps to have some system that allows you to be as efficient as possible and stay on purpose.

We developed a simple method that can help you get more done and stay focused on the critical elements of any project or activity that you have to complete alone or with a team. It's called the PARTIER method, and it stands for Purpose, Activity, Resources, Tasks, Implement, Evaluate, and Recognize & Reward. To make the explanation below more relevant, we'll use an example of a project to improve customer service in your organization.

Purpose: Understanding the purpose of any undertaking makes it easier for individuals to understand how it fits into the overall picture and why it's important. It can help give greater meaning to what needs to be accomplished if everyone knows how their role helps achieve the purpose. There are often many distractions that can take you in other directions, but with a clear purpose statement, you're more likely to stay on track. Ask yourself, "How will this 'fit' with the mission and strategic direction?" "What is the ultimate outcome I want this activity to achieve?"

For our example, you might decide that the purpose to improve customer service in your organization is so customers will become delighted advocates for your organization who return and tell their friends about your business. This purpose is much greater than to just satisfy your customers, and it provides the result and outcome you would like others in the organization to help realize.

Activity: What major activity do you need to accomplish to achieve the Purpose? There may be several things you can do to achieve the purpose, but you want to focus your energies for a project on the one thing that can create the greatest impact. If you have more than one, assign another project team to pursue it or schedule it as the next activity to focus your efforts. Trying to work on several major activities at the same time is like a dog chasing several rabbits at one time and not being able to catch any of them. The customer service activity you may choose is to provide effective service training and follow-up activities for your staff.

Resources: What resources do you need to properly accomplish the Activity? This can be in the form of money, equipment, time, people, community or government support. These must be identified so you can determine if you can complete the project, or need to solicit additional support before you begin.

For the customer service training you have decided on live training for staff and online or teleconference follow-up training for management so they can continue to work with those they supervise. This will require money, the time of your people, Internet connection and computers, as well as support from upper management.

Tasks: Now it's time to break the activity into Next Action Steps that will progressively lead to the successful completion of the Activity. This means you will need to review possible training providers to choose the best one, schedule dates, times, and venue for the training, and complete any other tasks to accomplish the Activity and realize the Purpose.

Implement: Now it's time to do it. Assign individuals to be responsible for specific action steps, provide a budget and other required resources, and determine the starting and completion dates for each action. If a department or team will be working on the project, there should be one person who is accountable for the accomplishment of the major Activity and will need to report on the progress.

Evaluate: You should regularly monitor your progress and take any necessary steps to stay on course. If you expect something to get done you must regularly inspect it. Once the Activity is completed, you should document what you learned. What would you do more of, less of, and what other lessons did you walk away with that will make it easier to accomplish a similar activity in the future, or to train others in the future. This could take the form of policies and procedural steps that can be followed to consistently produce similar results.

Recognize & Reward: It is important to recognize progress while the activity is in the process of completion. Once it is completed, individuals should be recognized for their contribution. If appropriate, reward those who have achieved a specified standard of excellence. With your customer service training, you should regularly recognize the behaviors and attitudes you want from your employees. If service is tied to financial performance you may reward them with a bonus when targets are reached.

So, if you want to get more done, you should use the PARTIER method. If everyone stays on Purpose, and successfully accomplished the major Activity, you should celebrate with a real party! All work and no play make Jack a dull boy.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A conversation with Notre Dame valedictorian E. Brennan Bollman

By RACHEL DRY
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Pomp. Circumstance. Anti-abortion banners. National news organizations clamoring to cover a controversy. Oh yeah, and the president of the United States. Happy graduation, Notre Dame class of 2009. This Sunday, in his second commencement address of the season, Barack Obama will share the stage with E. Brennan Bollman, valedictorian of the graduating class. She spoke with Rachel Dry about the debate surrounding a pro-abortion rights politician's appearance in South Bend, how she's using Obama's past speeches to prepare for her own and why her classmates aren't totally freaked out by the job market they're entering. Excerpts:

Q. So the president of the United States is going to hear you give your valedictory address.

A. Yeah, that's what everyone keeps telling me. "President Barack Obama will be listening to you." I said, well, you know, I wouldn't blame him if his mind wandered a little bit. He does have a lot going on.

Q. Does it change how you're thinking about the speech?

A. No, not at all. The core message is really a simple thing that my parents have always told me: From those to whom much is given, much is expected. I'll talk about the things that Notre Dame has given us and what's expected of us because of that.

Q. Do you speak before the president does?

A. I'm pretty positive that I go before. Which is good, because it would be pretty difficult to speak after President Obama. Actually, I've been listening to some of his speeches as I'm practicing. By no means could I expect to deliver a speech as well as he can. He's had years of practice and is obviously phenomenal. But he has a certain presence and a cadence that I hope to at least try to work for, a little bit.

Q. I imagine that it's pretty exciting.

A. Being valedictorian of Notre Dame is a great honor and a privilege, but mostly so because my class is so full of engaging and accomplished and passionate students that it's just a responsibility to represent them. So I hope that I'll be able to deliver a message that will not just say "this is what Brennan Bollman thinks," but "this is what Notre Dame is."

Q. That's a very diplomatic answer. Do you have public service or politics in mind for the future?

A. Actually, I'll be attending medical school next year.

Q. Do you know where yet?

A. Yes, I'm going to Harvard. Where, actually, President Obama is obviously an alum . ... I hope to enter the field of public health. I've done some international health work, so I would like to continue that. I've spent some time in Haiti through experiences at Notre Dame and also in Cambodia. I would like to try to return to Haiti as part of my medical practice.

Q. Obama is the ninth president to speak at Notre Dame, so it's not exactly unprecedented. Did you imagine that the controversy would be so intense?

A. When the announcement came out that Friday afternoon, I would say within a half an hour — just because of mass text messaging and Facebook status updates — everyone was talking about it. People were just unbelievably ecstatic that President Obama was going to be our graduation speaker. I definitely had a feeling of my heart stopping when I read that announcement.

I know that the perception of the school is that it's a little bit more conservative, and it certainly is more morally conservative, but I would say that, politically, it's quite even. I have some fellow students and friends who are opposed to awarding him an honorary degree because of the Catholic stance on life issues, but they're being very mature and thoughtful — I would say almost academic in expressing their viewpoints. The sensationalism comes externally.

Q. Which was a bigger controversy among students: whether Obama should come to speak or whether the school should have fired football coach Charlie Weis after going 3-9 and 7-6 the past two years?

A. I would have to say (Obama) is a stronger issue. It's political, it does affect a lot of lives, whether you're thinking about women's lives in making certain choices or being in certain situations. I think that the firing of Charlie Weis also comes on strongly. But, yes, this has been a bigger issue.

It certainly spawned many more letters to our student newspaper. Actually, they did a poll. Ninety-seven percent of the letters from senior class members were in support of Obama coming to speak. The football team's record has also generated letters to the editor, but not quite as many. Football is always dear to Notre Dame, but I think we also realize which things are more important.

Q. I read a letter to the editor of the campus newspaper that you wrote during your junior year discussing some controversy over Raytheon and the CIA recruiting on campus. You wrote that "we fail as students if we accept information without critically evaluating it in light of our values." Do you feel as though people have done that in this case?

A. The students are taking this issue to heart in a very appropriate fashion. There is certainly a very present and visible portion of our student body that cares very deeply about these life issues, and it's important that they evaluate the actions of any institution, whether it's Notre Dame, their academic institution or their government, in light of values that they believe religiously, personally, morally and intellectually.

Q. Did you support Obama's candidacy?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Did you go door to door in Indiana or anything?

A. I was really busy last semester interviewing for medical schools. I did work on the campus non-partisan campaign to register voters. I didn't personally work for him. I would have, though.

Q. Your class entered Notre Dame in the fall of 2005. Today, it's a pretty different economy. What do you and your classmates think of the world you're walking into?

A. I would say that people who have had the benefit of receiving an education are at an advantage to be able to help rebuild things that are broken in our economy, in our health care and a whole host of other sectors of society. At Notre Dame I think we have a particular bent on the issue because service is so inculcated here.

Q. How are the black market sales for graduation tickets?

A. Tickets are impossible to come by. Every family is guaranteed three. I know there was a lottery for faculty tickets. I'm sure every seat will be filled. In past years it hasn't been that difficult to get tickets. I went a couple years ago and just got a ticket outside.

Q. Are people selling them on Craigslist?

A. I haven't checked. I just know I get mine.

A MEDIATION

From Page 10

suspended for awhile, and the parties can concentrate on finding a professional mediator, skilled in financial problems—because that is what the Retirement Fund mess is , a financial problem—and in mediation techniques. No one loses from considering mediation, and the whole community might win.

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Letters to the Editor

Thank you

We, Teen Talk CNMI, would like to thank Tan Holdings Corp. for your support and contribution to our purpose and for responding to our needs. Most importantly, we'd like to thank you for your flexibility in working with our budget and for taking care of our accommodations at Fiesta Resort Guam for the Youth for Youth Conference on the weekend of April 24-27, 2009. Your significant financial support is greatly appreciated. Our trip to Guam was a success. Much was gained and we have learned many new things and are eager to use what we know to help the CNMI.

Teen Talk would also like to extend our sincerest appreciation to IT&E for responding to our need. We would like to thank you for your support and contribution to the Teen Talk group and the youth of the CNMI. Thank you for your donation of air cards and text cards during the time of our trip to Guam for the Youth for Youth Conference on the weekend of April 24-27, 2009. It greatly helped us.

Teen Talk CNMI would also like to extend our sincerest appreciation to the STD HIV/AIDS Prevention Office for responding to our need. Thank you, most especially, for your donation of the 2008 World AIDS Day t-shirts for our trip to Guam.

Once again, we are truly thankful for your continued support of Teen Talk and the youth of the CNMI.

Teen Talk CNMI
via e-mail

Let's call it a reward

I have heard and read positive and negative comments regarding the CNMI's transition period for us long-term guest workers. Being one of many long-term Filipino guest workers, this is my view:

Most of our business sectors believe in the capacities and capabilities of alien workers. This is why some of us have been retained on the islands for a long period of time. We never complained and we fully devoted our time and effort to our jobs and we love doing it, not just because we need the money but because we do not want to jeopardize the businesses where we are working. Come to think of it, most of us are still here in the CNMI even when the economy went down, even if they have cut down our working hours, even if they have taken out some of our benefits. We remain working side by side with our employers.

For us long-term guest workers, living and considering the CNMI as our second home, we want our stay to be permanent and for us not to be called *aliens*. Knowing that there is a chance for us to be given a more permanent status, if the Secretary of Interior makes such a recommendation to the U.S. Congress, it would be a good *reward* that the U.S. federal government could grant us. I am reaching out to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, with the help of some of our active fellow long-term guest workers like Boni Sagana and Malou Berueco, to name a few, to continue their struggle for this *reward* that we seek.

Pamela Hernandez
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Global, not just local

In response to John Gourley's letter to the editor in Wednesday's paper, the point Gourley fails to understand is that the Pew operates on a global level, rather than a local one, and it is the concern for global welfare that drives its quest for large ocean areas that can be set aside as reserves.

The Pew's Global Ocean Legacy project was established for the purpose of creating a handful of significantly sized marine reserves in the world by 2011. Most of the money on which the Ocean Legacy operates actually comes from organizations other than the Pew Charitable Trust.

The Global Ocean Legacy's interest in increasing the protection provided by the Marianas Trench Marine Monument is in keeping with its broader mission: creation of a legacy that ensures protection and preservation of the world's marine life in all its forms. In light of the extensive damage to the ocean and its benthic communities due, among other things, to overfishing encouraged and supported by such groups as WESPAC, many species have already disappeared, and others are on the verge of doing so. Fishermen have found that it has become necessary to go further and further afield—only to catch fewer and fewer smaller and smaller fish.

The large "no-take" zones the Global Ocean Legacy supports would provide a sanctuary where such fish stocks—as well as related marine life—could grow to full size, reach maturity and breed, and for the young, in turn, to grow to maturity. Restricted access would provide protection to the entire food chain—from polyp to top predator—allowing balance in marine life to be re-established and restored.

Such replenishment and restoration would benefit not only local fishermen—and divers—but everyone else around the world who depends on the oceans' resources for survival.

The issue at stake is global, not local. Which is not to say that the CNMI couldn't, or wouldn't benefit—if it chose to do so.

Ruth L. Tighe
Tanapag, Saipan

A safe driving tip

The next time you walk out to your car, look at your headlights. If they are nice and clear and you can see the reflector inside and the bulb, you do not have a problem. If they are dull gray and you cannot see inside the light, you have a problem. It seems that the rain out here gathers in the lenses of the headlights and coats them. When that happens you may have very little light coverage when you drive.

The corrections are quite simple. I used a product called "Mothers" mag, an aluminum polish. I get it at Napa but I am sure the other parts stores have a similar product. All you have to do is rub it onto the face of the light and it will clean the face of the light. If you have any problems or need help, feel free to call me at 322-2609 or on my wife's cell phone at 483-1938. I will be glad to meet with you and give you a hand.

Fred Prosser
As Matuis, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲87° ▼79°	▲88° ▼79°	▲88° ▼78°

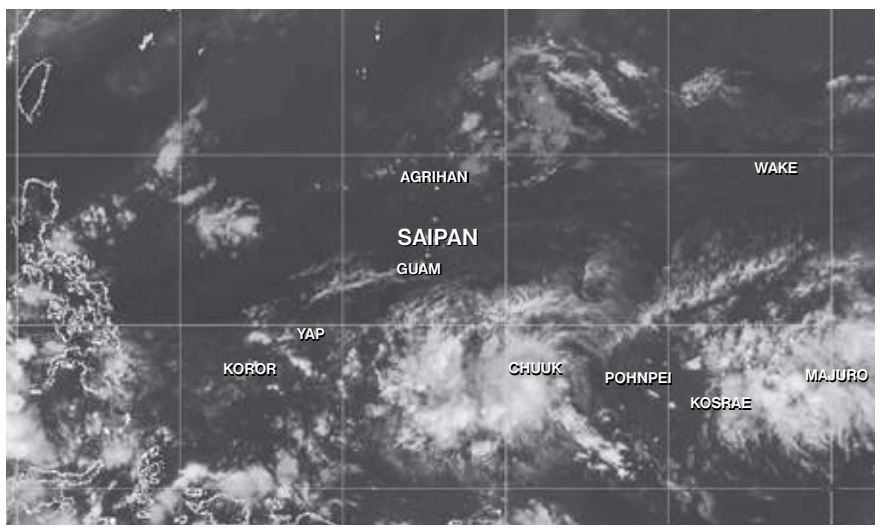
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲87	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲83	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼80
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲63	▼56
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼54
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼72
London	Rain	▲61	▼50
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲78	▼60
Manila	Showers	▲87	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲62	▼52
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼76
New York	Thundershowers	▲69	▼58
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼54
Paris	Showers	▲68	▼52
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲79	▼58
Rome	Cloudy	▲76	▼58
Salem	Showers	▲61	▼44
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼52
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲71	▼54
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼52
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	▲75	▼61

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough north of the Marianas extends northeastward from 19N143E to beyond 25N at 150E. Converging winds near the trough are generating scattered showers in an area bounded by a line from 25N147E to 25N160E to19N152E to 19N147E back to 25N147E. A surface trough extends southward from 7N153E to a weak circulation straddling the equator at 152E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms exist over Chuuk State or between 9N and 2N from 144E to 154E. Another surface trough extends southwestward from Majuro to EQ168E. Converging winds near the trough are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across a large area of the Marshall Islands including Kwajalein and Majuro or between 10N and 3N from 162E to 174E. Upper-level divergence from an upper-level trough west of Koror along with a near equatorial trough stretching eastward from 4N130E to a weak circulation at EQ152E are combining to generate scattered showers within 50 miles of a line curving from 9N135E to 6N139E to 1N138E to 1N130E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

5:16 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
9:30 AM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
5:12 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Saturday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM
Monday	5:48 AM	6:39 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:56 PM	9:36 AM
Friday	11:37 PM	10:27 AM
Saturday		11:17 AM
Sunday	12:15 AM	12:06 PM
Monday	12:52 AM	12:54 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

2 alien workers with Saipan-born kids sue Labor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two long-term alien workers who have Saipan-born children and have lost their jobs due to the economic downturn have brought the Department of Labor to court after special counsel Deanne Siemer denied their request for an extension to find new employers.

Amelia Alava and Pevima Cordero, through their counsel Stephen C. Woodruff, argued that pursuant to labor law, only Labor administrative hearing officers can grant or deny transfer relief.

In their petition for judicial review filed in the Superior Court, Alava and Cordero also questioned the signature in the orders denying their appeal. According to them, the signature was that of somebody other than Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas.

Woodruff asked the court to set aside the decision and ordered a briefing schedule for processing the appeal.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman set a status conference for May 28, 2009 at 1:30pm.

Alava is an ex-Onwell Garment employee and has lived and worked in the CNMI for over 15 years. She has a 13-year-old Saipan-born daughter.

Cordero has lived and worked in the CNMI for many years. She has a 2-year-old daughter and a 1-year-old son, both U.S. citizens.

As a result of the shutdown of the local garment industry and economic downturn, Alava and Cordero lost their jobs.

Woodruff said the two were unable to find new employers within the 30-day period required by Labor.

Woodruff said that Labor's policy and practice allow for an extension of time to transfer upon a showing of sufficient legal or equitable grounds to justify it.

The lawyer said Alava and Cordero filed with Labor a request for additional time to transfer on July 1, 2008, and June 30, 2008.

Woodruff said that on July 14, 2008, Labor issued virtually identical orders denying the workers' requests for extension of time to transfer. He said Siemer signed the orders "for" Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody.

The plaintiffs appealed to the Labor Secretary.

Woodruff said that on March 19, 2009, the Labor Secretary executed two documents affirming the denials. He said the two orders are virtually identical or "copycats" of each other, save for the name of the workers.

The lawyer pointed out that the form of the signature on these documents suggests they were actually signed by someone other than San Nicolas.

Woodruff said the orders contain no discussion of the situation or the plaintiffs' circumstances, no citations of authority, and no analysis of the facts or the law.

MMAC TITLE SPONSOR CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Bank of Guam will be a title sponsor for the 2009 Marianas March Against Cancer for the second year in a row. Bank of Guam donated $3,000 to the 2009 MMAC Committee and will also be participating as a team along with Garapan Elementary School at the annual event to be held on May 22-23, 2009, from 6pm to 6am at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. Photo shows, from left, Larry Philip, BOG; Tania David, BOG; Janine Nogis, MMAC vice chairwoman; Marcie Tomokane, Pacific Region Manager, CNMI; David Rosario, MMAC overall chairman; Dave Guerrero, BOG team captain; Reina Camacho, MMAC Team Recruitment Committee chairwoman; Jeannie Mafnas, MMAC Accounting & Registration Committee chairwoman; Dr. Jack Hardy, MMAC senior adviser.

Court closes deportation case vs Palauan with 10 convictions

The Superior Court on Tuesday closed a deportation case against a Palauan man who has 10 criminal convictions, including copper wire theft.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman closed deportation proceedings against Sumang Stanger Riungel after the respondent departed the CNMI on April 3.

Riungel had signed an agreement with the Division of Immigration in December 2008 for his deportation to Palau.

"There will be no proceedings in this case," said the judge, as he removed the case from the court's docket.

Riungel was among a group of men who were arrested in 2007 for stealing copper wires from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s water sites in Sadog Tasi.

Immigration filed last year a deportation case against Riungel based on his conviction for eight misdemeanors and two felonies. Riungel did not challenge the deportation and agreed to go.

An order of deportation is a permanent ban from the CNMI. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PACIFIC BRIEFS

'American Samoa shouldn't be welfare state'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono says while he welcomes new money from the Supplemental Security Income program for the blind, aged and disabled he does not want to see the territory become a welfare state. The territory's US Congressman, Eni Faleomavaega, last week introduced a bill that would extend the SSI program. The governor says that federal programs such as the SSI would mean new money circulating in the economy; however, he would rather concentrate on attracting new industries and companies that would result in new jobs. He was also concerned that welfare programs would be a magnet for foreigners to come to the territory and that would create other problems.

Forum appoints new RAMSI head

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The Pacific Islands Forum has appointed a Fiji academic and former government official as its new representative in Solomon Islands. Sakiusa Rabuka replaces Dr Lesi Korovavala who resigned in October last year. The Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Tuiloma Neroni Slade, says the experience Rabuka brings will enhance the relationship between the Forum, the Solomons' Government and the Regional Assistance Mission. Rabuka has been teaching law at the University of Fiji and previously had extensive work experience as a senior officer with the Fiji government, including as a diplomat at the UN in New York.

Niue signs Pacific Petroleum Project

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (Solomon Times/PIR)—Niue has sealed its support for the Pacific Petroleum Project. Niue signed the MoU at the Pacific Energy Ministers' Meeting held last month in Tonga, cementing its commitment in identifying viable means of accessing the global markets, particularly as a smaller island state. Pacific Islands Forum Leaders agreed, through the Pacific Plan adopted at Port Moresby in October 2005, and in discussions since, to undertake a joint negotiation process for the bulk procurement of petroleum to address their shared concerns about energy affordability and security.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT **MASAJI NAKAMOTO** IS NO LONGER CONNECTED WITH **ANAKS RESORT DEVELOPMENT, INC.**, NOR ITS AFFILIATES AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF APRIL 20, 2009. ANY TRANSACTION ENTERED AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE WILL NOT BE HONORED BY MANAGEMENT AND WILL BE CONSIDERED NULL AND VOID.

Teacher shortage at public schools nears 50

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System disclosed yesterday that it currently needs nearly 50 more classroom teachers and a few counselors to effectively deliver quality education to students.

This was the goal of the system's Human Resource Office when it revived yesterday the islandwide teacher job fair at the Multi-Purpose Center, targeting local residents to fill the vacant positions.

PSS human resource officer Charlie Kenty, along with 20 school principals and administrators, accommodated the initial 20 applicants in the first few hours of the fair yesterday.

Screening and interviews were conducted by school principals who also prepared and decided on potential employees based on the eligibility list set by PSS.

Kenty said the nearly 50 teacher vacancies are mostly in content areas that require candidates to have a specialty or degree in subjects like Math, Science, English, and Language Arts.

PSS earlier said that hiring teachers for content areas, specifically for high schools, are a challenge to school principals because the required degrees could only be completed from universities and colleges outside the CNMI.

The Northern Marianas College, the sole community college on island, only offers an Elementary Education degree.

"We have about 18-20 applicants interviewed this morning and as soon as the principals make the determination, they can submit the recommendation to HR, which will prepare the contract and processing," Kenty said, adding that yesterday's job fair also aimed to "speed up" the filling of vacant positions, besides giving the local workforce an opportunity to join the system.

Currently, PSS has 492 classroom teachers for its nearly 11,000 students from Kindergarten to 12th grade.

Besides the lack of potential applicants, PSS is also having problems with the funding provided it by the local government to pay for the salary of teachers.

Dandan Elementary School Principal Jonas Barcinas mans the DES booth during the Public School System's job fair at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

This fiscal year, the system is allocated $36.8 million, of which $35 million goes to personnel.

Kenty disclosed that the salary of the 50 target teachers would be covered by the stimulus money for PSS.

"Funding for the needed teachers and other vacancies would be paid in part by the stimulus money for PSS," Kenty said.

He said the effort was also part of the system's desire to "retain" teachers.

'Few applicants'

Dandan Elementary School Principal Jonas Barcinas accommodated and interviewed yesterday just three applicants—one for Kindergarten, a Special Education teacher aide, and a teacher aide for Heritage Studies.

DES has the following vacancies: 1 Kindergarten teacher, a teacher for third grade, a school counselor, two Special Education aides, one Special Education teacher, and a teacher for Chamorro and Carolinian classes.

Barcinas has at present a total of 22 teachers, attending to 586 students.

Before the end of the wholeday event, he hopes to meet more applicants for all the vacant positions in his school.

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School principal Charlotte Camacho, meantime, said that only one applicant has applied with the school.

She needs one teacher for Special Education and a school counselor. However, the sole applicant interviewed was for a classroom teacher aide.

GTC at present has 13 teachers for its 231 students.

Ignacia Demapan, Kagman Elementary School principal, was happy to accommodate an applicant for a school counselor position, which she said may get the position based on qualifications.

Her school still needs three more classroom teachers and one for Special Education classes.

KagES has 32 teachers and 625 kids at present.

She lauded the system's HR for coming up with the job fair, which she described as a "great idea" to address the teacher shortage in many schools.

Demapan said the process was also centralized and convenient for individuals who are looking for jobs in public schools.

Some administrators believed that better participation and a greater turnout could have been achieved if the job fair was held on a weekend.

DPL: No promised homestead lots in Marpi

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Public Lands Secretary John Del Rosario said yesterday none of the estimated 3,400 homestead applicants on Saipan has been promised a lot in Marpi where 62 hectares of land are being cleared of unexploded World War II ordnance.

Rep. Tina Sablan, Taotao Tano president Gregorio Cruz and other members of the community who attended a May 5 public meeting on the Marpi project expressed concern that the clearing is part of a political ploy, to win votes in the November elections.

"Nobody's promised anything," Del Rosario told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday. "Let's make sure the area is safe now, and then decide what to do with the area later on."

He said the area is far from being cleaned up of unexploded ordnance. Clearing at the area, he said, is ongoing.

On Monday, Sablan asked Coastal Resources Management director Dr. John Joyner to issue an immediate stop work order on the ongoing Marpi clearing until formal public hearings have been conducted and until a major siting permit has been duly issued.

Sablan said the Marpi project "is proceeding in plain violation of CRM regulations" because of a lack of a major siting permit. Joyner said CRM is following procedures.

Much public outcry and confusion have resulted when land clearing commenced in Marpi, and many questions remain about the apparent breakdown in the local permitting process; the method of land clearing being used and its impact on an area of immense historic, cultural and biological value; the wisdom of the proposal to ultimately establish a homestead development in that area of Marpi; and the possible conflicts between an outdated public land use plan that has proven difficult to find, and the recently adopted Saipan Zoning Law of 2008, said Sablan.

As of yesterday afternoon, Sablan said she has not received a written reply from the CRM director.

Judge orders return of truck seized by auto shop

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has ordered an auto repair shop to return a pickup truck it repaired and then seized from its owner.

Wiseman ruled that Primo Jebehn shall retain possession of a 1990 Toyota Hilux pickup truck until a final court judgment is entered in the case.

Wiseman ordered Success Auto Repair Shop, Miao Guojun, and Motion Automotive Repair Center to transfer to the levying officer possession of any documents in their possession of title to the pickup truck.

Jebehn has sworn upon oath that he is the owner of the truck and that he had never granted anyone a security interest in the vehicle.

The plaintiff also informed the court that defendants removed and seized the truck without his permission and that they did not return it despite his demands.

Wiseman found special circumstances warranting issuance of writ of attachment as there is a danger that the truck would be concealed or substantially impaired in value or be sold.

Jebehn, through counsel Lillian A. Tenorio, sued the defendants to recover the truck.

According to the complaint, Jebehn visited Success Auto Repair Shop in 2005 and asked its owner, Miao Guojun, to repair his truck.

Miao claimed charges for repairs to the truck in the amount of $3,800. Miao was paid in full of the charges.

Tenorio stated that on June 3, 2008, without notice to Jebehn, defendants towed the truck from the I-Teck parking lot in Gualo Rai.

Tenorio said Miao directed the tow truck operator employed by Motion Automotive Repair Center to take the vehicle while it was parked at Jebehn's place of business.

Miao refused to release the truck, prompting the plaintiff to file a theft complaint with the Department of Public Safety.

To add insult to injury, Tenorio said, Miao has demanded towing charges and storage fees for his unlawful seizure of the truck and has threatened to sell the vehicle unless charges are paid in full. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

WELCOME HOME!
Welcome home to Isaac Aguon! We've missed you! Loving you always, Lucille, Ophing, and Destynee Tenorio Aguon.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IN APPRECIATION
PRTI-DARE/GUTS student body and Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja's Junior High Mock Trial team present a Certificate of Appreciation to CNMI Presiding Judge Robert Naraja and the Rota Judicial staff for their support to ESFDB's Junior High Mock Trial team and the PRTI DARE/GUTS program. From left, Judge Robert Naraja, ESFDB DARE/GUTS Rep. Maricel Atalig, ESFDB DARE president Van Cing, ESFDB DARE/GUTS treasurer Angelique Perez, and ESFDB DARE/GUTS Rep. Randee Jo Barcinas. Not in photo is ESFDB adviser Mary Rose Lucero and PRTI supervisor Edward C. Maratita Jr.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Happy birthday greetings go out to Will DeWitt, shown here with his students during a competition in Guam, who is celebrating his birthday today, May 14, 2009. Greetings come from family and friends.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Social Security, Medicare dwindling in recession

AP

Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner listens at a news conference at the Treasury Department in Washington, Tuesday, May 12, 2009, after the annual spring meeting of the Social Security and Medicare Trustees to discuss the financial situation of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Social Security and Medicare are fading even faster under the weight of the recession, heading for insolvency years sooner than previously expected, the government warned Tuesday.

Medicare already is paying out more money than it receives, something that happened for the first time last year. And Social Security will be by 2016, a year sooner than had been projected, the trustees' annual report said.

Unless changes in Social Security are enacted, the retirement fund will be depleted in 2037, four years sooner than projected last year. The Medicare trust fund is in even worse shape. It is projected to become insolvent in 2017, two years earlier than expected.

More immediately, the trustees do not expect Social Security recipients to get cost-of-living increases in 2010 or 2011, something that hasn't happened since automatic adjustments were adopted in 1975. The Social Security Administration will set next year's cost-of-living adjustment in October, based on inflation over the previous year.

"We should neither be casual nor hysterical about the revised insolvency dates," Social Security Commissioner Michael Astrue said. "The Social Security system will weather this recession. However, the sooner we get on with the task of reforming the system, the easier it will be to make the tough choices."

RealtyTrac: April foreclosures rise 32 percent

MIAMI (AP)—The number of U.S. households faced with losing their homes to foreclosure jumped 32 percent in April compared with the same month last year, with Nevada, Florida and California showing the highest rates, according to data released Wednesday.

More than 342,000 households received at least one foreclosure-related notice in April, RealtyTrac Inc. said. That means one in every 374 U.S. housing units received a foreclosure filing last month, the highest monthly rate since the Irvine, Calif.-based foreclosure listing firm began its report in January 2005.

April was the second straight month with more than 300,000 households receiving a foreclosure filing, as the number of borrowers with mortgage troubles failed to abate.

The April number, however, was less than one percent above that posted in March, when more than 340,000 properties were affected. The March data was up 17 percent from February and 46 percent from a year earlier.

"We've never seen two consecutive months like this," said Rick Sharga, RealtyTrac's senior vice president for marketing. "It's the volume that's surprising."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil climbs to near $60 on falling US inventories

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose to near $60 a barrel Wednesday in Asia as an unexpected fall in U.S. crude inventories suggested demand may be picking up. Benchmark crude for June delivery was up 88 cents to $59.73 a barrel midday in Singapore, in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. On Tuesday, the contract rose to a six-month high of $60.08 a barrel before settling at $58.85, up 35 cents. After settlement in New York, the American Petroleum Institute said oil stocks fell 3.13 million barrels to 370.7 million last week. Analysts had expected a gain of 1.4 million barrels, according to a survey by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.

Investors hunt defensive stocks as rally stalls

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street is back on the defensive. Stocks ended mixed but well off their lows Tuesday as early concerns about a barrage of stock offerings eased and rising oil prices lifted energy stocks. The Dow Jones industrials rose 50 points, while broader indicators fell. Investors turned to defensive corners of the market, driving up shares of drugmakers like Pfizer Inc. and food and drink producers like Coca-Cola Inc., which tend to hold up better in economic downturns. Even strapped consumers aren't as quick to cut back on medication and food. The fluctuations came as some traders worried that the economic recovery won't be as brisk as hoped when stocks were posting big gains over the past eight weeks. Stock offerings from companies trying to raise cash has stirred concerns about the loss in value that existing shares would incur as more shares are issued.

Former Monster COO convicted of stock option fraud

NEW YORK (AP)—The former president and chief operating officer of Monster Worldwide has been convicted in New York of wrongfully backdating millions of dollars worth of employee stock option grants. A jury on Tuesday found James Treacy, of Glen Rock, N.J., guilty of conspiracy to commit securities fraud, filing false reports with the Securities and Exchange Commission, making false statements to auditors and falsifying books and records. Prosecutors say the backdated option grants caused the company to understate expenses by $339 million between 1997 and 2005. They said the 51-year-old Treacy received more than a million options himself, some of which were improperly set to dates when the company's stock traded at a lower price. He was alleged to have gained more than $24 million.

Nation

Tillman's parents want general's record reviewed

WASHINGTON (AP)—The parents of slain Army Ranger and NFL star Pat Tillman voiced concerns Tuesday that the general who played a role in mischaracterizing his death could be put in charge of military operations in Afghanistan.

In a brief interview with The Associated Press, Pat Tillman Sr. accused Lt. Gen. Stanley McChrystal of covering up the circumstances of the 2004 slaying.

"I do believe that guy participated in a falsified homicide investigation," Pat Tillman Sr. said.

Separately, Mary Tillman called it "imperative" that McChrystal's record be carefully considered before he is confirmed.

Pentagon spokesman Geoff Morrell said Defense Secretary Robert Gates has complete confidence in McChrystal, whom he hopes can be confirmed by the Senate before month's end.

"We feel terrible for what the Tillman family went through, but this matter has been investigated thoroughly by the Pentagon, by the Congress, by outside experts, and all of them have come to the same conclusion: that there was no wrongdoing by Gen. McChrystal," Morrell said.

Aides to the top Democrat and Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, which will consider the nomination, said they were unaware of any opposition to McChrystal.

McChrystal, a former "black ops" special forces chief credited with nabbing one of the most-wanted fugitives in Iraq, was tapped Monday to lead U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan. If confirmed by the Senate, he would replace Gen. David McKiernan, who was fired in an unusual wartime shake-up.

Talk of ice on wings, then a scream and crash

WASHINGTON (AP)—Showing no alarm, the captain and his first officer chatted about the ice on their plane's windshield and wings, making light of their shared concerns about flying in wintry weather as they sped toward Buffalo, N.Y., on the night of Feb. 12.

Minutes later, pilot Marvin Renslow said "Jesus Christ," and Rebecca Shaw screamed as Continental Connection Flight 3407 plunged to the ground, landing on a house in a fiery crash. All 49 people aboard and one man on the ground were killed.

The haunting transcript of the plane's final moments—preserved by the cockpit voice recorder—was released Tuesday by the National Transportation Safety Board at the start of a three-day public hearing to examine safety issues raised by the crash.

Among those issues are whether Renslow and Shaw responded properly to warnings that the Dash 8-Q400 Bombardier, a twin-engine turboprop, was nearing a stall.

In response to questioning from board members, officials from Manassas, Va.-based Colgan Air, which operated the flight for Continental, acknowledged the two apparently weren't paying close attention to the aircraft's instruments and failed to follow the airline's procedures for handling an impeding stall in the final minutes of the flight.

Senators weigh tax increase to pay for health care

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senators are considering limiting—but not eliminating—the tax-free status of employer-provided health benefits to help pay for President Barack Obama's plan to provide coverage to 50 million uninsured Americans.

Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus, D-Mont., said Tuesday that there are no easy options. Senators began grappling with how to finance guaranteed coverage, a cornerstone of Obama's plan to overhaul the health care system. Independent experts put the costs at about $1.5 trillion over 10 years.

Obama sees a world in which doctors and hospitals compete to offer quality service at lower costs, and the savings help cover the uninsured. Turning that vision into reality remains the biggest challenge for the president and his backers, because hard cash—not just ideas—is required to cover upfront costs of expanding coverage.

The president put health care industry leaders on notice Tuesday that he expects them to fulfill their dramatic offer of $2 trillion in savings over 10 years. "I will hold you to your pledge to get this done," Obama said in a letter released by the White House that went to groups representing insurers, hospitals, doctors, drug makers and others.

But those savings—even if the industry delivers every penny—won't all accrue to the government. So the financing package for Obama's plan is likely to include a mix of tax increases and spending cuts in federal health programs.

ACROSS THE NATION

Witness: Ex-soldier had PTSD, was unfit for combat

PADUCAH, Ky. (AP)—A former soldier who could be sentenced to death should have been removed from a combat zone known as the "Triangle of Death" three months before he raped and killed a teenage girl in Iraq, a psychiatrist testified Tuesday. Dr. Pablo Stewart, a psychiatrist at the University of California-San Francisco, told jurors that former Pfc. Steven Dale Green exhibited clear signs of post-traumatic stress disorder and acute stress disorder when he met with an Army counselor in December 2005. Stewart, testifying for Green's defense, said Lt. Col. Karen Marrs gave Green a sleep medication and sent him back into combat. "Her work with Pfc. Green ... does not meet the acceptable standard of care," Stewart said.

Accused soldier's father says son 'broke'

SHERMAN, Texas (AP)—The Army sergeant accused of killing five fellow soldiers in Iraq was typically not a violent person, but counselors "broke" him before the gunfire erupted in a military stress center, his father said Tuesday. Wilburn Russell, 73, told reporters that his son, Sgt. John M. Russell, was treated poorly at the stress center and had e-mailed his wife calling two recent days the worst in his life. "I hate what that boy did," said the elder Russell, speaking in front of the two-story suburban home his son is buying with his wife. "He thought it was justified. That's never a solution." The 44-year-old soldier has been charged with murder and aggravated assault in the Baghdad slayings Monday, which his father said came just weeks before the end of his third tour of duty in Iraq.

5 Miami men convicted of Sears Tower attack plot

MIAMI (AP)—It took three trials, three juries and nearly three years, but federal prosecutors finally succeeded Tuesday in convicting five Miami men of plotting to start an anti-government insurrection by destroying Chicago's Sears Tower and bombing FBI offices. One man was acquitted. When the FBI swarmed the downtrodden Liberty City neighborhood to make the arrests in June 2006, the administration of President George W. Bush hailed the case as a prime example of the Justice Department's post-Sept. 11 policy of disrupting potential terror plots in the earliest possible stages. Yet hours of FBI recordings of terrorist talk contrasted with little concrete evidence of an evolving plot, triggering two mistrials because juries could not agree on verdicts against ringleader Narseal Batiste or five followers. One of the original seven defendants was acquitted after the first trial.

Asia

Police: Bomb kills 7 people in Afghanistan

AP

Soldiers from the U.S. Army First Battalion, 26th Infantry fire mortars from the Korengal Outpost at Taliban positions in the Korengal Valley of Afghanistan's Kunar Province on Tuesday May 12, 2009.

KABUL (AP)—A suicide bomb attack killed seven people and wounded 21 Wednesday outside a U.S. military base in the same part of eastern Afghanistan where militants stormed government buildings a day earlier, police said.

The militant attacks in Khost, a city within sight of the tumultuous border with Pakistan, comes as the U.S. makes leadership changes in Afghanistan that demonstrate a clear break from Bush-era appointees.

A vehicle drove up to the first gate outside Camp Salerno, on the edge of Khost city, early Wednesday morning and exploded, said Wazir Pacha, a police spokesman for Khost province. Seven people were killed and 21 others were wounded, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

U.S. forces confirmed the attack, saying four Afghan security guards were killed in the blast and 12 wounded.

There were no casualties among international troops, said Lt. Cmdr. Christine Sidenstricker, a U.S. military spokeswoman.

On Tuesday, 11 Taliban suicide bombers struck government buildings in Khost city, sparking running gunbattles with U.S. and Afghan forces that killed 20 people and wounded three Americans.

RP troops clash with aid worker's captors

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine troops clashed Tuesday with the al-Qaida-linked captors of an Italian Red Cross worker, wounding a marine and an undetermined number of gunmen.

It was not immediately clear if ailing Italian hostage Eugenio Vagni was with the Abu Sayyaf militants, led by commander Albader Parad, who engaged the marines in the brief gunbattle in a jungle near Jolo Island's Indanan township, navy spokesman Lt. Col. Edgard Arevalo said.

Marines were chasing the militants who withdrew into the woods, leaving behind blood stains, he said.

"Our men were doubly careful because this group still has the Italian hostage," Arevalo said.

Vagni and two other workers of the International Committee of the Red Cross—Swiss Andreas Notter and Filipino Mary Jean Lacaba—were kidnapped Jan. 15 after inspecting a Jolo jail water supply project. Lacaba was released April 2 and Notter walked free about two weeks later.

After weeks of futile negotiations, Jolo Gov. Abdusakur Tan ordered troops and police to rescue the 62-year-old Vagni last month, citing his failing health.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Doctor says 49 killed in Sri Lanka hospital attack

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A mortar shell slammed into a crowd of wounded civilians waiting for treatment at the only medical facility left in Sri Lanka's war zone Tuesday, killing 49 people in the third day of intense shelling in the area, health officials said. The Tamil Tiger rebels blamed the government for the attack—the second deadly strike on the hospital this month—and called on the international community to push for an immediate cease-fire. Sri Lankan officials denied responsibility, saying they had ceased using artillery and mortars weeks ago. But the U.N. humanitarian chief said there was evidence the government was still using heavy weapons, despite the estimated 50,000 civilians stuck in the tiny coastal strip still under rebel control. The Red Cross said a ferry filled with aid had to turn back because of fighting.

Apparent poison gas hospitalizes 84 Afghan girls

MUHMUD RAQI, Afghanistan (AP)—Officials accused extremist militants of launching a poison gas attack Tuesday that caused dozens of schoolgirls to collapse with headaches and nausea as they waited in line for a Quran reading at their school in northeastern Afghanistan. The Taliban and other Islamic fundamentalists have regularly attacked girls schools in Afghanistan and the second apparent poisoning in two days has raised concerns that they have now found a new weapon to scare girls into staying at home rather than going to class. Students were gathering in the yard of Aftab Bachi school in Muhmud Raqi for a morning reading of the Quran when a strange odor filled the area. First one girl collapsed, then others, said the school's principal, Mossena, who fought for breath as she described the event from her hospital bed.

Pakistan's refugees tell of fear under Taliban

JALALA, Pakistan (AP)—The Pakistani teenager remembered recognizing her distant relative almost instantly, even though his head had been severed and placed on his back, punishment the Taliban claimed was for spying. The brutal discovery was just one example used Tuesday by Kulsoom, a 16-year-old refugee, to describe life in the Swat Valley under Taliban control. As tens of thousands flood refugee camps to escape fighting between the army and militants, some are cautiously sharing their stories, detailing how extremists ran roughshod over cities and hamlets. The Taliban's brand of Islamic law proved too harsh for many residents in the relatively conservative region of Pakistan, and it appears to be a major reason large numbers of the displaced support the military's latest offensive in the area.

World

Soldier charged in comrades' deaths showed stress

BAGHDAD (AP)—The U.S. military command launched an investigation Tuesday into whether it offers adequate mental health care to its soldiers, a day after a sergeant finishing up his third tour of Iraq allegedly shot and killed five comrades at a clinic on a U.S. base.

Sgt. John M. Russell, 44, of Sherman, Texas, was taken into custody outside a mental health clinic at Camp Liberty following Monday's shooting and charged with five counts of murder and one of aggravated assault, Maj. Gen. David Perkins said.

The case, the deadliest of the war involving soldier-on-soldier violence, has cast a spotlight on combat stress and emotional problems resulting from frequent deployments to battle zones in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Up to one-fifth of the more than 1.7 million who have served in the two conflicts are believed to have symptoms of anxiety, depression and other emotional problems. Some studies show that about half of those who need help do not seek it.

Russell's father said his son, who joined the Army in 1994 after a divorce and minor scrapes with the law, felt poorly treated at the stress center. He said he hopes "we find he snapped because of the pressure. He wasn't a mean person."

In Baghdad, Perkins told reporters that Russell, a communications specialist assigned to the 54th Engineer Battalion from Bamberg, Germany, was sent to the mental health clinic by his superiors, presumably because of concern over his emotional state.

He said the commander had ordered Russell's weapon taken away from him but somehow he got a new weapon, entered the clinic and opened fire.

Perkins declined to give a detailed account of the shooting, saying the matter was under investigation.

However, a Pentagon official said in Washington that Russell had been escorted to the clinic, but once inside argued with the staff and was asked to leave.

After he drove away, Russell apparently seized his escort's weapon and returned to the clinic, the official said on condition of anonymity because the investigation was ongoing.

Pope calls for Palestinian homeland

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP)—In a pilgrimage to Jesus' traditional birthplace, Pope Benedict XVI called Wednesday for the establishment of a Palestinian state and acknowledged Palestinian suffering during decades of Mideast turmoil.

The pontiff stood alongside Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas as he delivered his strongest public support yet for Palestinian statehood.

"Mr. President, the Holy See supports the right of your people to a sovereign Palestinian homeland in the land of your forefathers, secure and at peace with its neighbors, within internationally recognized borders," the pontiff said.

The Palestinians hoped that the pontiff's visit would highlight the harsh conditions they endure living under Israeli military rule. Benedict acknowledged their difficulties, though stopped short of naming Israel.

"I know how much you have suffered and continue to suffer as a result of the turmoil that has afflicted this land for decades," he said.

Earlier Wednesday, the pontiff's motorcade drove through a crossing in Israel's towering West Bank separation barrier to reach the cradle of Christianity. Israel says it built the barrier to keep out Palestinian attackers, while Palestinians denounce it as a land grab because it dips into areas they claim for a future independent state.

As swine flu spreads, who should get Tamiflu?

MEXICO CITY (AP)—The swine flu epidemic may seem mild now, with relatively few deaths even as the virus infects thousands in at least 33 countries. But experts worry it could mutate into something more dangerous—making the question of who should get antiviral therapy ever more important.

The World Health Organization said Tuesday that countries should save antiviral drugs for those patients most at risk, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention added that pregnant women in particular should take the drugs if they are diagnosed with swine flu—even though the effects on the fetus are not completely known.

European countries have been using antiviral drugs such as Tamiflu and Relenza much more aggressively than the United States and Mexico—administering it whenever possible in an attempt to contain the virus before it spreads more widely.

Instead, the WHO recommends that antivirals be targeted mainly at people already suffering from other diseases or complications—such as pregnancy—that can lower a body's defenses against flu, WHO medical expert Dr. Nikki Shindo said.

Pregnant women are more likely to suffer pneumonia when they catch flu, and flu infections raised the risk of premature birth in past epidemics.

WORLD BRIEFS

Demjanjuk in German prison for Nazi guard charges

MUNICH (AP)—Sitting in a wheelchair and breathing through a nasal tube, retired auto worker John Demjanjuk listened silently Tuesday as a German judge read a 21-page warrant accusing him of acting as an accessory to the murder of 29,000 people at a Nazi death camp. Prosecutors in Munich made clear they hope to press ahead quickly with the case against the 89-year-old, saying after the longtime Ohio resident arrived in Germany that formal charges could be filed within weeks. Demjanjuk said nothing as an interpreter translated the warrant into his native Ukrainian, his lawyer Guenther Maull told reporters afterward. "He understood what was being read to him," said Maull, who immediately filed a challenge against the warrant, arguing the evidence was not solid and Germany's jurisdiction questionable.

UK opposition lawmakers to repay expenses

LONDON (AP)—Britain's primary opposition leader banned members of his party Tuesday from filing expense claims for food and household items amid public outrage after lawmakers sought reimbursements for items such as swimming pool construction and tennis court upkeep.Conservative David Cameron said his party's lawmakers would reimburse the taxpayers for expenses deemed inappropriate, such as chandeliers, sleigh beds and manure. The Conservative Party leader said that the public could not abide by the expenditures, even though they were technically allowed under the complicated system for claiming household costs. "Politicians have done things that are unethical and wrong," Cameron said during a news conference. "I am completely appalled." Details of lawmakers' expenses has been published over the past days in Britain's Daily Telegraph newspaper, creating a steady drip of embarrassing revelations about how lawmakers cash in on the taxpayer.

Environment

Rota Environmental Expo a great success!

ROTA—The Division of Environmental Quality and various natural resource management agencies from Rota and Saipan joined forces on Friday, May 1, 2009, to present the first ever Environmental Expo on Rota.

About 180 students in 5th through 8th grades from Sinapalo Elementary School and Rota Junior High participated in the event.

Ten educational booths covered a variety of environmental topics including marine protected areas and the Rare Pride campaign, coral reefs, marine monitoring, nonpoint source pollution, endangered species, brown tree snake, enforcement, Forestry: Talakhaya Watershed, quarantine, and medicinal plants of the CNMI.

Highlights of the event included the appearance of a live Marianas fruit bat, an endangered species, a live brown tree snake to teach kids about this dangerous invasive reptile, plants from the Talakhaya Revegetation Project, a Jeopardy-style game to teach children about marine protected areas, a coral reef presentation, local medicinal plants, and an enviroscape model. Channel 5 recorded the event to play on local cable TV for everyone on Rota to view.

The Division of Environmental Quality (Saipan) facilitated the event and partnering agencies included the Division of Fish & Wildlife, the Department of Lands & Natural Resources, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Coastal Resources Management Office, Northern Marianas College-Rota, the Rota Mayor's Office and Channel 5 TV.

Due to the success of this expo, the partnering agencies plan to make this a yearly event. (***Kathleen Herrmann)***

Free training for contractors on erosion, sediment control

CNMI contractors and inspectors are invited to attend a free erosion and sediment control certification training, with complimentary lunch and a networking happy hour, on May 27 and 28, from 8am to 5pm at the Pacific Islands Club.

Presented by the Division of Environmental Quality and Coastal Resources Management, this free training and certification program will provide industry professionals with the knowledge and hands-on skills required to assure compliance with the requirements contained in the 2006 CNMI/Guam Stormwater Management Manual.

The program includes a combination of classroom learning and field demonstration, along with information on where to buy materials for soil erosion control. Participants will receive free reference materials to ensure compliance beyond the classroom.

Certification will be required for all contractors! Take advantage of this free training and networking event before the regulations go into effect.

A final certification exam will be administered at end of the workshop.

For registration form and information, contact Brian Bearden or Kathleen Herrmann, Division of Environmental Quality, at 664-8500. Space is limited and registration is required.

For more information, visit the DEQ website, http://www.deq.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

AQUACULTURE SCIENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE

The 'why' of survival and self-reliance

By VALRICK WELCH
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I grew up in Utah, an area with a strong culture of self-reliance. We were often reminded by our leaders that we needed to have a two-year supply of food and medicine in case of an emergency. During the height of the Cold War many of us thought that we would need our food storage to survive a nuclear winter. One of the drills our community would do was for a church leader to choose a family to go for one week without going to the store. On the following week the family would tell the congregation about the experience. One week, three different speakers were assigned to give talks in church, not about how to store food and make preparations for emergencies, but why we should try to survive an emergency. While most members could easily talk about how to prepare and store food, and which foods last the longest, the topic of why it is important to survive an emergency stumped all the speakers. They all stumbled for ideas, with one saying all he could find in the scriptures was John the Baptist eating honey in the desert, so maybe we should store more honey.

A main purpose of the Aquaculture Science & Self-reliance project is to teach self-reliance, but why? Another question is why is it so important to produce energy through renewable sources? Why do we need so much energy anyway? Do we really need so much "stuff" that just ends up in the landfill? Paul Griffith, the president and chief scientist of Makani Power, explains that we simply use too much power and resources; however, he goes on to say that life can actually be better as we use less. He uses an the example of driving to work frustrated because of the traffic jams, or riding a bike to work along tree lined sidewalks. Another example he used was children walking and talking together on their way to school, compared to riding a bus, or riding in a car with a parent in a hurry to get to work.

Our hydroponics manager has his own Makani power (Makani is his son). The Makani Power that Paul Griffith is the president of is a company developing kites that can produce energy from the wind (Makani is the Hawaiian word for wind). The kites tap into the higher level wind energy, which is faster and more consistent. One kite design has the kite pull a cord that is wrapped around a spool that turns a turbine as it feeds line to the kite. When the kite has traveled to its limit, it does a dive and the cord is wound back onto the spool using much less energy than what was produced as the kite is fed out. It is estimated that kites can produce energy for less than half the cost of a ground mounted wind turbine. Another design is to use two kites with one kite reeling out while the other is coming in, and an even different concept is to use a series of kites flying in figure 8 patterns that causes the air to flow over the kites at speeds faster than the ambient wind speed (guardian.co.uk, Aug, 3, 2008 "Giant kites to tap power of the high wind").

So maybe, instead of worrying about our dropping "standard of living," we can think in terms of quality of life and take action to improve it. In the near future we may be able to fly kites at the beach that will produce power for the music, lights, and cooler; however, tomorrow most of us could choose to go to the beach and enjoy wave energy, wind energy breeze, and the friendship of friends and family; while at the same time leaving the air con, lights, and entertainment devices at home off. We can set time as families to plan our meals and go together shopping to get everything in one trip, rather than taking numerous trips throughout the week that waste time and energy.

Many people enjoyed observing the traditional canoes during the Flame Tree festival. The crew members seemed to be having high quality life experiences as they demonstrated their skills and worked together to prepare the boat for the return voyage. Quality of life can be improved by listening and learning from our elders. Learn about native plants and medicines, listen to stories of how they entertained themselves when they had to survive the war years, learn from the experiences they can pass down. All of us will need to use fewer resources and less energy to protect our limited resources; however, the challenge should be to remember why it is important that we survive.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The traditional canoes that visited Saipan from Satawal during the recent Flame Tree festival were a hit with festival goers.

Life & Style

Fiesta creates splash for moms on Mother's Day

Eleven mothers and children pair up in the Finale Fashion segment.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mother and son Marissa and CJ Quichocho.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mom and daughter Rizza and Renne show off the islandwear from Fiesta Gift Shop.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kelly and Angel model the partywear collection from Tapo Shopping.

The annual celebration and tribute to mothers was highlighted by Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan with a "Mom and Me Fashion Show" and a Mother's Day concert last Sunday, May 10.

More than 500 mostly local families celebrated the day with their mothers with a festive Sunday Brunch at the Hibiscus Hall, in addition to those who chose to celebrate the event at the Mai and The Bund restaurants, the Japanese and Chinese outlets of Fiesta.

This is the second year in a row that Fiesta celebrated Mother's Day with a fashion show and live entertainment. This year's number surpassed the success of last year's event, with the fashion show featuring longer segments and more clothing lines. The islandwear collection was provided by the Fiesta Gift Shop, while the casualwear and partywear were provided by Tapo Shopping.

Eleven mothers with different backgrounds and occupations brought their children to Fiesta and walked down the runway of Hibiscus Hall while guests feasted on the sumptuous buffet. The models' hair and makeup were provided by Salon, the former Salon de Manila that is now conveniently located inside Fiesta Resort and Spa.

The duo of Mario and Loreta also serenaded mothers with inspirational songs.

Door and raffle prizes were also given away by Fiesta Resort and Spa and Pepsi. Tapo Shopping and Salon gave away discount coupons for mothers and IT&E gave away three brand new cell phones for the raffle.

Guests were also given a chance to obtain souvenir shots in the photo studio prepared by Motion Media. The pictures served as Fiesta's gift for the moms who were present at the event. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nally and Liam with Dee and Derylle.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frances Sablan wins a brand new cell phone from IT&E.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Caroline models this ensemble from the Tapo Shopping collection.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cindy and son Jason.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CJ and mom Ghie with Joanne and son model the casualwear collection of Tapo Shopping.

Palin has book deal, memoir to come next year

NEW YORK (AP)—You knew it was coming: Sarah Palin is ready to tell her side, agreeing to publish a memoir with HarperCollins. The book comes out in Spring 2010—the year she is up for re-election.

"There's been so much written about and spoken about in the mainstream media and in the anonymous blogosphere world, that this will be a wonderful, refreshing chance for me to get to tell my story, that a lot of people have asked about, unfiltered," the Alaska governor and 2008 vice presidential candidate said during a brief telephone interview Tuesday with The Associated Press.

Palin's memoir, currently untitled, will cover her personal and political life, from her childhood in Alaska and last year's campaign to her political beliefs and her family life, including the pregnancy of her teenage daughter, Bristol Palin, who gave birth in December to a baby boy, Tripp. (She and the baby's father, Levi Johnston, have since ended their relationship.)

"In fairness to my family, this is going be a good opportunity for them, too, because there have been so many misperceptions out there about who we are and what we believe in, and I'm excited to get to put my journalism degree to work and tell my story as it relates to my family," said Palin, 45, who in 1987 graduated from the University of Idaho with a degree in journalism.

In this Feb. 11, 2009 file photo, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin listens to a question during a news conference, in Juneau, Alaska.

AP

Palin declined to name any specific misunderstandings and avoided detailed comments about her family, her political aspirations or about the divide in the Republican Party between moderates and conservatives, a divide her vice presidential run helped widen.

A Palin book has been rumored virtually from the time the election ended. Although Republicans Sen. John McCain and Palin were easily beaten by Democrats Barack Obama and Joseph Biden, Palin emerged a favorite among conservatives, an object of tabloid gossip and—as the only candidate in the race who had never written a memoir—a natural for a publishing deal.

The book will be co-released by the HarperCollins imprint Harper and, for the Christian market, by the HarperCollins-owned Zondervan, which publishes "The Purpose Driven Life" author Rick Warren, among others.

A memoir (or two) have become a virtual requirement for White House seekers, especially after Obama's "The Audacity of Hope" and "Dreams From My Father" established him as a stylist and storyteller with a vast following.

Although Palin denied any presidential ambition during Tuesday's interview, she did pick the most presidential of literary representatives, Washington attorney Robert Barnett, to handle negotiations. Barnett's clients include Obama and former presidents George W. Bush and Bill Clinton.

As he did when arranging a publisher for memoirs by Bush and Clinton, Barnett did not solicit competing bids, but chose to negotiate only with one publisher, HarperCollins, which Barnett praised for being "first and fervent in pursuing this project." Financial terms were not disclosed, but Palin was widely expected to get a multimillion-dollar contract. Barnett and Harper publisher Jonathan Burnham both declined to offer details.

Palin's book will address, and complicate, the push-pull between home and public life. With the release date just one year away, the governor will have to work quickly. Barnett said that the governor has formed an outline in her mind, but has yet to start writing. Burnham said Palin did not submit any writing samples when she met with HarperCollins executives in Washington, earlier this year. She will work with a collaborator, to be determined.

"She's obviously going to be engaged in the whole process of the book," said Burnham, adding that the role of the collaborator would depend on who was chosen.

"Every word of the book will be her words," Barnett said.

Palin and Burnham said the memoir will emphasize Palin's Alaskan upbringing, and the governor will talk about her "unpretentious" lifestyle. Burnham described the book as the story of an Alaskan encountering a national audience, "the soccer mom and the political operative, and how one became the other."

Palin has never written a book and her critics, noting her disjointed CBS interviews with Katie Couric, have questioned whether she could. Two years ago, Palin told PBS' Charlie Rose that her favorite writers were C.S. Lewis ("very, very deep") and a Runner's World columnist, Dr. George Sheehan. Asked Tuesday about her reading, Palin mentioned that she "really enjoyed" Katharine Graham's Pulitzer Prize-winning "Personal History" and cited works by Obama, McCain and Bill Clinton, whose "My Life" she read "just recently."

Trump says Miss California USA can retain crown

NEW YORK (AP)—Miss California USA can retain her crown despite controversies over semi-nude photographs taken of her as a teenager and her association with a conservative advocacy group for marriage, pageant owner Donald Trump said Tuesday.

Carrie Prejean's comments about her opposition to same-sex marriage ignited a media firestorm after a celebrity judge suggested her response may have cost her the Miss USA title; she finished as first-runner up. The photos surfaced later and led to the review of her state title.

"We've reviewed the pictures carefully," Trump said at a packed news conference at Trump Plaza in New York City. "We've made a determination that the pictures taken were acceptable. Some were risque, but we are in the 21st century."

Trump also defended the answer Prejean gave at the April 19 Miss USA pageant. She was asked her view of marriage by blogger Perez Hilton. Prejean said she believes marriage is between a man and a woman.

"It's the same answer the president of the United States gave," Trump said. "It's the same answer many people gave. She gave an honorable answer. She gave an answer from her heart, and I think for that she has to be commended."

Trump only briefly addressed questions surrounding Prejean's association with the National Organization for Marriage, a group that opposes same-sex marriage. He dismissed them as a "communication problem" between Prejean and California pageant officials.

"I use the term 'miscommunication' somewhat loosely," Trump said, "but they were having miscommunication. The communication problem, I believe, is totally solved."

Before competing in the Miss California USA competition, all prospective contestants are required to sign a detailed 12-page contract prohibiting Miss California USA from making personal appearances, giving interviews or making commercials without permission from pageant officials.

AP

Miss California USA, Carrie Prejean, reacts as Donald Trump, left, speaks during a news conference in New York, Tuesday May 12, 2009.

The contract also contains a clause asking participants to disclose whether they have conducted themselves "in accordance with the highest ethical and moral standards." It asks participants whether they have ever been photographed nude or partially nude.

After Trump spoke, Prejean, who was accompanied by her parents, took her turn at the lectern, defending herself against "hateful attacks, despicable rumors and false allegations."

"On April 19 on that stage I exercised my freedom of speech, and I was punished for doing so," said Prejean, who described Hilton's question as "politically charged" with a "hidden personal agenda."

"This should not happen in America."

In an interview with The Associated Press, Prejean said she was briefly tempted by Satan to answer Hilton's question in a way that would please the judges.

"I had worked so hard for this," she said.

Instead, she decided to give her honest opinion, even if it cost her points.

"The Lord was in my heart and in my head just saying, `Carrie, how bad do you want this? Are you willing to deny me?'" she said. "I will always continue to not compromise my values."

Prejean said she had forgiven the people who attacked her for expressing her views, including Hilton.

Trump's senior executive assistant, Rhona Graff-Ricci, said Trump wouldn't answer further questions about Prejean's dealings with the marriage group.

Message of Appreciation

We, the family of the late

Vicente Aguon Sanchez

wholeheartedly extend our sincerest appreciation and gratitude to all our relatives, friends, co-workers and acquaintances who prayed, offered condolences and supported us throughout our sorrow upon the loss of our dearest and loving father, and in which gave us strength and courage to endure our trying times.

Special thanks to Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Father Charlie, Father Jose, Father Nonoy, St. Jude Choir and Alice Guerrero.

Words cannot express our deepest and profound gratitude for all the kindness, generosity and prayers extended to our family.

God Bless You All!
Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
Lourdes Dela Cruz Sanchez
Children and Grandchildren

Lambert, Gokey and Allen compete for 'Idol' crown

NEW YORK (AP)—The pressure is on for Danny Gokey, Kris Allen and Adam Lambert.

There's just one week until the "American Idol" finale, and on Tuesday night the all-male trio competed for two spots in next week's much-hyped sing-off.

They each performed two songs, one picked by the judges' panel and the other chosen by themselves.

It was a last chance to make an impression on the voting viewers. Now, the aspiring pop stars await the verdict on Wednesday's results show.

As usual, Lambert wowed the panel with his daring vocal range and style. He sang the U2 anthem "One"—Simon Cowell's selection—and his personal choice: the Aerosmith classic "Crying."

"How do you hit those notes and still talk the next day?" asked Kara DioGuardi, one of the four judges on the top-rated Fox network competition.

Jumping in on the Lambert lovefest, Paula Abdul gushed: "We'll be seeing you next week and many years after that."

Not so fast, warned Cowell. The judge shrewdly noted that people should vote for the 27-year-old theater actor and not assume he's a shoo-in for the final showdown.

Strong performances by Gokey and Allen on Tuesday could challenge the expectation that Lambert—who appears on the latest cover of Entertainment Weekly—has the "Idol" crown in the bag.

Allen of Conway, Ark., was the only finalist to select a contemporary song— "Heartless" by Kanye West. DioGuardi praised Allen's cool interpretation of the R&B hit as "bold, brave and fearless," while Cowell revealed he'd written the married 23-year-old out of the competition until that performance.

AP

In this May 8, 2009 file photo, Adam Lambert, a finalist on the singing competition series, "American Idol," performs for fans during a visit to his alma mater, Mt. Carmel High School in San Diego.

Cowell and DioGuardi got into a spat over Allen earlier in the show. DioGuardi and Randy Jackson picked One Republic's "Apologize" for Allen, and Cowell complained the song was a "lame choice." Things turned ugly when Cowell zeroed in on DioGuardi, who had urged Allen to "take more chances" following his faithful cover of the pop hit.

"You can't choose a song for him and then blame him for the song," sniped Cowell, before DioGuardi covered up his mouth with her hand.

Gokey, 28, of Milwaukee, received high marks for his cover of Joe Cocker's version of "You Are So Beautiful." The panel thought he nailed it, and Cowell's praise was the icing on top: "I would call that a vocal master class."

Gokey's dancing, however, was another story during his rendition of Terence Trent D'Arby's "Dance Little Sister," chosen by Abdul.

DioGuardi said his "gyrating" was too much for her, while Cowell described Gokey's footwork in a word: "desperate."

Not that Gokey seemed to care.

"I want to sing that song!" he said.

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Star Trek

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Chris Pine, Winona Ryder
Sci-Fi, Adaptation • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
The story of a young crew's maiden voyage onboard the most advanced starship ever created: the U.S.S. Enterprise. On a journey filled with cosmic peril, the new recruits must find a way to stop an evil being whose mission of vengeance threatens all of mankind. The fate of the galaxy rests in the hands of bitter rivals. One, James T. Kirk, is a delinquent, thrill-seeking Iowa farm boy.

T-2 (Tenement 2)

Friday		4:25	7:20	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:25	7:20	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:25	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:25	7:20	

Maricel Soriano, Mika Dela Cruz
Action, Adventure • Rated NR

Synopsis
T2 is a story of Clair, a woman whose pain from his husband's breakup with her led her to Angeli, an orphan whom she is supposed to bring to the latter's mother who happened to be an engkanto.

★ ★ ★

X-Men Origins:Wolverine

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:10	

Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
X-Men Origins: Wolverine, the first chapter in the X-Men saga, unites Wolverine with several other legends of the X-Men Universe, in an epic revolution that pits the mutants against powerful forces determined to eliminate them.

X-Men Origins:Wolverine

Friday		4:30	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:30	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:30	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:25	

Hugh Jackman, Liev Schreiber
Action, Adventure • Rated PG 13

Ghost of Girlfriends Past

Friday		4:10	7:15	9:40
Saturday	1:15	4:10	7:15	9:40
Sunday	1:15	4:10	7:15	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:15	

Matthew McConaughhey, Jennifer Garner
Romantic, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Fighting

Friday		4:15	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:10	4:15	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:10	4:15	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:30	

Channing Tatum, Terrence Howard
Urban, Crime • Rated PG 13

17 Again

Friday		4:20	7:05	9:30
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:05	9:30
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:05	

Zac Efron, Leslie Mann
Fantasy, Comedy • Rated PG 13

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'Glee' actors sing 'Idol' Lambert's praises

AP

In this TV publicity image released by Fox, Lea Michele is shown in a scene from the musical comedy series, "Glee."

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP)—The "Glee" club went back to school, the real-life Santa Monica High School, for the world premiere of their new musical-comedy TV series.

As chilly ocean breezes blew in, they and hundreds of others gathered to watch the "Glee" pilot on a big screen in the school's amphitheater.

Lea Michele, who starred on Broadway in "Spring Awakening" and now co-stars in "Glee," found the night "really exciting."

"It's so great to finally get out and have everybody see it, and we all get to get dressed up with all of my friends and it's fantastic," she said Monday.

From "Nip/Tuck" creator Ryan Murphy, "Glee" follows a group of generally awkward but talented singers. Their fates appear to change with the arrival of a teacher (Matthew Morrison) eager to bring the school's glee club back to its old glory. Too bad there's a slew of other faculty members and students just as eager to see him fail. The show's cast includes Kevin McHale, Jenna Ushkowitz, Amber Riley and Chris Colfer.

The pilot has yet to air, but it's already received the kind of press usually reserved for established hits: a full front page in the Sunday entertainment section of the Los Angeles Times, magazine spreads, numerous rave reviews.

The Fox network show makes its on-air debut 9 p.m. EDT May 19, following this season's penultimate "American Idol," and this "Glee" club definitely has a favorite among remaining contestants Adam Lambert, Kris Allen and Danny Gokey.

"You know what? I love Adam," said Michele. "I've known Adam for a while. I've known of Adam through the theater world. So, I'm a really big fan. I think Danny's amazing. So, I'd say it's going to be tight between the two of them."

"Adam," said Colfer.

"Love Adam," injected McHale, "because he's ridiculous. Danny is an amazing singer. I think Chris is a great musician. But Adam is just—he's loud, he's everything. Just to go see his concert would be crazy. He's an amazing, amazing singer."

"Adam is like the new Freddie Mercury meets—I don't know: genius," said Ushkowitz.

LA police: Burglar had no part in messy Lohan home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A burglar alarm led police to Lindsay Lohan's house on Tuesday, where officers found evidence of a potential break-in and ransacking.

Turns out, the mess belonged to Lohan, not the burglars, police said.

An alarm company notified police that someone tripped an alarm at the house around 3 p.m. in Hollywood. Police determined no one entered the home and nothing was stolen, but the mess inside the starlet's home prompted officers to ask, "Is it normally like this, or did the intruders do it?" said Los Angeles police Officer Karen Rayner.

Lohan was not at home at the time.

A message left with Lohan's publicist Leslie Sloane-Zelnik was not immediately returned Tuesday night.

Another star rides out of the 'Dancing' ballroom

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The King of the Cowboys has left the ballroom.

After weeks of less-than-stellar scores, rodeo champ Ty Murray was eliminated from "Dancing With the Stars."

The 39-year-old bull rider came into Tuesday's semifinal results show in last place with 48 points out of 60.

"We might be at the bottom this week, but week one we were the 13th-worst couple," Murray joked of his unlikely success in the ABC dance-off.

The nine-time world champion rodeo cowboy joined the hit show with wife Jewel, who was sidelined by an injury before the competition began. Alongside professional partner Chelsie Hightower, Murray plodded ahead with stiff hips and a positive attitude that moved fans to bring him back week after week.

Judges praised Murray for his hard work and can-do approach.

"If the others have climbed hills, you've climbed mountains," head judge Len Goodman said Tuesday. "With that dedication and work ethic, you've been a credit to everyone on the show."

On Monday, judge Carrie Ann Inaba named Murray "the most valuable player of season eight."

The lovable cowboy said he knew dancing would be "a giant stretch" but that he approached it with the same vigor he does bull riding.

AP

This photo released by ABC shows Ty Murray, right, and Chelsie Hightower performing on "Dancing with the Stars," on Monday, May, 11, 2009 in Los Angeles.

"There's not one ounce of quit in this entire body," he said Monday.

The ballroom audience rose to its feet to bid Murray farewell Tuesday. He smiled, saying he has "a whole new respect" for dancing. He also thanked his partner.

"Teaching me to dance is like trying to teach a blind guy to paint," Murray quipped.

Tuesday's results show also included a performance by Raphael Saadiq and the continuation of the new professional dance competition: Two pro dancers are vying for viewer votes and a spot on the next season of "Dancing With the Stars," slated to begin in September.

Actor Gilles Marini, Olympian Shawn Johnson and "The Bachelor" reject Melissa Rycroft will compete for the mirrorball trophy on Monday.

Huppert follows Penn as Cannes jury president

CANNES, France (AP)—The Cannes Film Festival faced a problem this year—how to replace passionate, attention-grabbing actor Sean Penn as jury president?

For starters, organizers recruited a 2009 jury that includes actress Robin Wright Penn, who is in the midst of divorcing the Academy Award-winning "Milk" star.

And as jury president, the festival opted for a French icon in Isabelle Huppert, who has starred in almost 100 films and twice won Cannes' best-actress prize.

"It was not easy to find someone after Sean Penn," festival director Thierry Fremaux said Tuesday. "Sean was great as a president. We'll miss him this year."

Fremaux said he was confident Huppert would do a stellar job.

She is the first woman to head the jury since Liv Ullman in 2001. That year's jury awarded the festival's best actress prize to Huppert, for Michael Haneke's "The Piano Teacher."

"She is a very serious person, and she said that for her, being president of Cannes is like having a role in a film," Fremaux said.

Jurors get the royal treatment at Cannes as they choose prize-winners among the films in competition. This year they'll be watching 20 films, including new works by Cannes favorites Quentin Tarantino, Lars von Trier, Ang Lee and Ken Loach.

Also included on this year's jury are edgy actor-director Asia Argento, American director James Gray, Turkish filmmaker Nuri Bilge Ceylan and British novelist and screenwriter Hanif Kureishi.

The event runs Wednesday through May 24, when the top prize—the Palme d'Or—will be announced.

Report: Reality TV's Kate denies cheating on Jon

NEW YORK (AP)—Reality TV star Kate Gosselin said she isn't cheating on her husband, Jon, and called the accusations disgusting and unthinkable.

In a story published Tuesday on People magazine's Web site, Gosselin said she's the target of tabloid lies romantically linking her with a bodyguard who frequently travels with the family. She spoke out following recent accounts that portrayed her as the victim of her husband's infidelity.

The Gosselins, along with their eight children, star on the TLC reality show "Jon & Kate Plus 8," which captures on-camera the challenges of raising a large family.

But TV stardom has brought its own challenges in the form of unsought media attention.

Last week, Jon Gosselin denied reports of an affair with a 23-year-old schoolteacher, while apologizing for having put his family in an "awkward situation."

AP

In this publicity image released by TLC, reality TV stars, Jon Gosselin, left, and his wife Kate Gosselin, from the TLC series, "Jon & Kate Plus 8," are shown.

Now, it's Kate Gosselin's turn.

"The next story coming out from the animals that stalk us is about our security person and his family," she said, referring to bodyguard Steve Neild. "Already the allegations they're making about me are disgusting, unthinkable, unfathomable, and I am horrified."

She voiced regret that the family's friends had been drawn into the media frenzy, and said she was "totally panicking" that the scandalous publicity might drive them away.

"I keep calling them, begging, `Seriously, I'm so sorry. Don't run away from us.' They keep saying, `We're fine, we're fine.' But they have paparazzi in front of their house. It's so upsetting."

The fifth season of "Jon & Kate Plus 8" premieres May 25.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Eminem to take autoworkers to Jimmy Kimmel show

DETROIT (AP)—Eminem says he and Jimmy Kimmel will fly about 200 laid-off autoworkers to Los Angeles for Friday's taping of his appearance on Kimmel's show. The Michigan rapper says he and Kimmel want to remind everyone that real people are being affected by what's going on in Detroit. He tells the Detroit Free Press, through his publicist, that news reports ignore people who have lost their jobs without getting big payouts after dedicating themselves to the auto industry. Eminem says he and Kimmel also want to show some of the autoworkers "a good time while we're at it." He's promoting the upcoming release of "Relapse," his first studio album in four years. Eminem will also appear on ABC's "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" on May 19 and May 22.

'SNL' alum Maya Rudolph expecting her second child

NEW YORK (AP)—Maya Rudolph say she's expecting her second child with filmmaker Paul Thomas Anderson. The former "Saturday Night Live" star confirmed her pregnancy Tuesday on ABC's "The View." When co-host Barbara Walters asked whether she was expecting, Rudolph answered: "I am. ... I'm so excited." The 36-year-old actress and 38-year-old Anderson, who has directed such films as "Magnolia" and "There Will Be Blood," are already parents to a 3-year-old daughter. Rudolph left "SNL" in 2007 but has since returned to the NBC show to portray Michelle Obama. In the upcoming film "Away We Go," she plays a woman expecting her first child. John Krasinski plays her partner in the Sam Mendes movie. It's slated for limited release on June 5.

Husband left home alone pines for wife on vacation

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My wife, "Carrie," and I have a vacation home in Florida. Occasionally Carrie goes down there for a week or so with her best friend. While she's away, I miss her badly and can't wait for her to call so I can hear her voice. The problem is she doesn't seem to miss me.

Sometimes she "forgets" to call or acts like she doesn't want to talk to me. When she gets home she says, "Of course I missed you," but it's different when she is off having fun and I'm the one stuck at home.

Carrie says it is normal for someone on vacation to have fun and be busy, and it shouldn't matter if I'm not on her mind. Please tell me—do I have a problem, does my wife have a problem, or do WE have a problem?

LONELY HUSBAND IN MINNESOTA

DEAR LONELY HUSBAND: When a man says he feels neglected, and his wife forgets to call him when she's vacationing without him (and puts quotation marks around the word "forgets"!) and uses a phrase like "stuck at home," which implies resentment, then the answer to your question is you BOTH have a problem. Also, it appears you are extremely dependent upon your spouse and could benefit from developing some outside interests or male friends of your own.

DEAR ABBY: My best friend of more than 20 years has a boyfriend in prison. They started out as pen pals and quickly "fell in love." He was convicted of kidnapping and committing a sex crime against a woman. He will be released from prison soon, after completing his 15-year sentence, and plans on moving in with her.

Neither my husband nor I want to get to know this man, visit him in their home or entertain him in ours. My husband is adamant about never socializing with them.

I care deeply for my friend and want her to be happy, but I think she's making a huge mistake. How can I continue this friendship?

BEHIND THE EIGHT BALL

DEAR BEHIND: You can't. And when she asks you why you have withdrawn from her life, you are going to have to give her the reason. The idea that you can maintain a friendship with this woman and exclude the man who's living with her is unrealistic, and the sooner you recognize that fact, the better off you'll be.

DEAR ABBY: My father-in-law died unexpectedly a month ago. At his memorial service we were given numerous sympathy cards, some of which contained cash or checks. Is this commonplace? I asked other family members; they all said they hadn't heard of such a thing.

What are we supposed to do with the money? We don't know if there is a particular custom involving monetary donations. If you know, please advise.

PERPLEXED IN WASHINGTON

DEAR PERPLEXED: Giving money to the family of the deceased may be a regional custom. It is done to help the family defray the cost of the funeral or other expenses.

Unless individuals prepare in advance for "the unexpected," their survivors can be caught flat-footed when a death occurs. Bank accounts can be frozen until the estate is settled, and it can take some time for insurance money to kick in. These donations can mean that the family has rent money or even money for food and can be very meaningful.

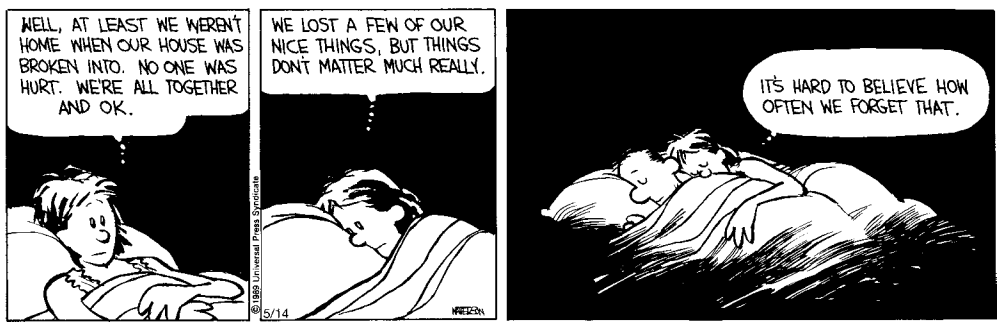
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WELL, AT LEAST WE WEREN'T HOME WHEN OUR HOUSE WAS BROKEN INTO. NO ONE WAS HURT. WE'RE ALL TOGETHER AND OK.
WE LOST A FEW OF OUR NICE THINGS, BUT THINGS DON'T MATTER MUCH REALLY.
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HOW OFTEN WE FORGET THAT.
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5/14

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I NEED MOTIVATION
GET UP AND DO SOMETHING, YOU LAZY BUM!
YEP. THAT WAS LIFE-TRANSFORMING
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www.garfield.com
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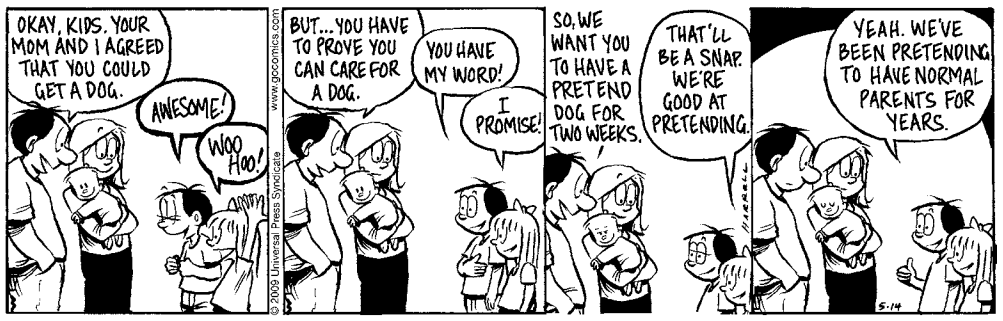
JIM DAVIS 5-14

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


OKAY, KIDS. YOUR MOM AND I AGREED THAT YOU COULD GET A DOG.
AWESOME!
WOO HOO!
BUT... YOU HAVE TO PROVE YOU CAN CARE FOR A DOG.
YOU HAVE MY WORD!
I PROMISE!
SO, WE WANT YOU TO HAVE A PRETEND DOG FOR TWO WEEKS.
THAT'LL BE A SNAP. WE'RE GOOD AT PRETENDING.
YEAH. WE'VE BEEN PRETENDING TO HAVE NORMAL PARENTS FOR YEARS.
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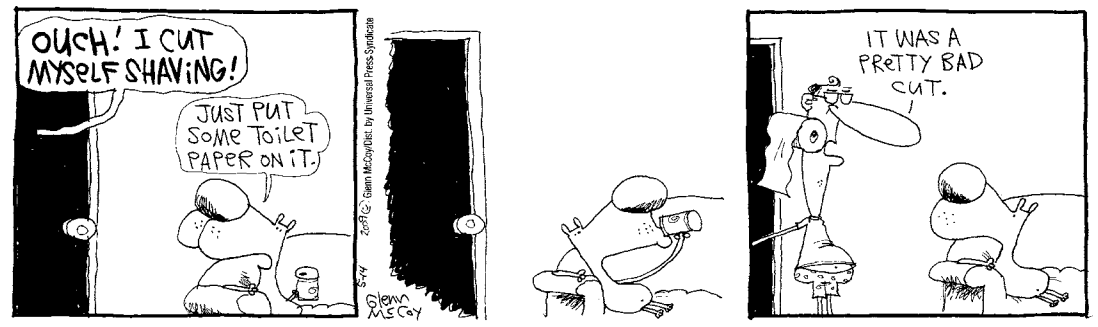
5-14

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


OUCH! I CUT MYSELF SHAVING!
JUST PUT SOME TOILET PAPER ON IT.
2009 Glenn McCoy Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
5/14
IT WAS A PRETTY BAD CUT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

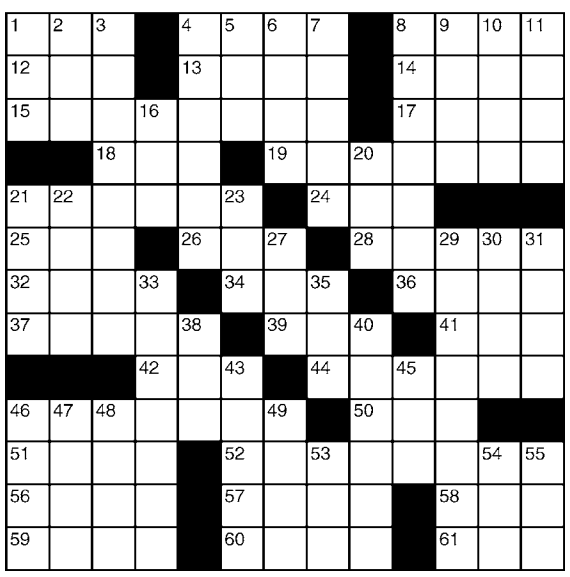
ACROSS
1 Feathery neckpiece
4 Weevil invader
8 Diplomacy
12 Puncturing tool
13 Reed instrument
14 Petri-dish matter
15 Giving permission
17 Entice
18 Online address
19 Exhibition setting
21 Sweeney Todd, e.g.
24 Deposit
25 With 21-Down, "Arabian Nights" hero
26 Scoot
28 Rub the wrong way
32 Exclamation point
34 Conger or moray
36 — podrida
37 Battle verbally
39 Afternoon affair
41 Fleur-de- —
42 Succumb to gravity
44 Thing
46 Baton wielder
50 Journal
51 Pinnacle
52 Soothing
56 Fit of peevishness
57 Voice of Fiona in "Shrek"
58 Teachers' org.
59 Towel marking
60 A handful
61 Sailor

DOWN
1 Sheepish remark?
2 Hooter
3 Sexy
4 Alley athlete
5 — -Wan Kenobi
6 Protracted
7 Constitutional
8 Hunter's cry
9 Chills and fever
10 Singer Vikki
11 Deuce beater
16 Scepter topper
20 Fond du —, Wisc.
21 See 25-Across
22 Winged
23 Actress McClanahan
27 Trawler prop
29 Making a claim
30 Gendarme
31 Bridge position
33 Fabric inserts
35 Author Buscaglia
38 Pack away
40 Burning
43 Alumni
45 Cohort of Whoopi and Sherri
46 Hawkeye's sitcom
47 Dermatology subject
48 Ottoman potentate
49 Hodgepodge
53 Hasty escape
54 Ultramodern
55 Tie up the phone

Solution time: 25 mins.

T	A	B	■	W	E	E	D	■	P	U	M	A
A	R	E	■	A	M	M	O	■	I	R	O	N
L	E	A	■	R	U	S	T	I	C	I	T	Y
C	A	R	O	L	■	■	E	O	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	B	O	P	S	■	N	I	M	B	I
T	O	X	I	C	I	T	Y	■	C	A	R	D
E	R	R	■	K	A	R	A	T	■	G	A	L
L	E	A	P	■	F	E	L	I	C	I	T	Y
L	O	Y	A	L	■	W	E	E	P	■	■	■
■	■	■	L	E	E	■	■	D	A	Z	E	D
D	U	P	L	I	C	I	T	Y	■	I	V	E
E	T	U	I	■	H	O	N	E	■	N	E	W
B	E	N	D	■	O	U	T	S	■	C	R	Y

Yesterday's answer 5-14



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cate Blanchett, 40; Tim Roth, 48; Rober6t Zemeckis, 57; George Lucas, 65

Happy Birthday: Venture out of your own world and discover new places, people and interests. This is a learning year, one to experience all you can and apply it to what you have been working so hard to accomplish. The changes and reforms you incorporate will make a difference and raise your profile among your peers. Your numbers are 14, 16, 23, 29, 33, 45, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Don't mix up your plans because someone is causing you grief. A problem will result if you let your personal life have an effect on your professional or vice versa. Putting pressure on someone you love will backfire. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Stop being passive when you need to be aggressive. Waiting for someone else to make a decision will not result in what's best for you. If you aren't willing to compromise or take on something new, you will be passed by. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Show your worth by expressing your ideas and, before you know it, you will be calling the shots. Someone you have wanted to work with will notice what you are doing and will make a beneficial suggestion. A business trip or networking will pay off. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You may feel like hiding out but that won't resolve any of the issues you've been facing. Take a hands-on approach. Now is not the time to put up with people or situations that are not working for you. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't give in or let others take the lead on a pending project or concern. You may be too busy having fun to notice that someone is taking advantage of you. Don't spend cash unnecessarily. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take action before it's too late. Fight for your rights and for what you want. You can come out on top but only if you have the gumption to place your name in the hat. Participation will allow you to reach heights that otherwise would elude you. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Honesty with regard to your abilities will help you find your niche. Trying to buy your way into something won't work. You have to have what it takes to get there with talent, skill and knowledge. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): A creative or unusual project that you have been developing needs changes in order to make it mainstream and user friendly. Talks will go well and contracts can be negotiated and signed. Keep personal and professional matters separate. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You must spend more time building your equity. Letting things ride or stay the same will not bring the profits you need to sustain your lifestyle. If you have described what you have to offer inaccurately, expect a deal to be rebuked. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Focus on loved ones, hobbies or socializing. Change your location or visit a place you've never been before. The learning experience will be worth it in terms of the people you meet. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Rethink past relationships and weed out the people who aren't giving back. Consider who best fits your lifestyle. Don't lose sight of your goals because someone discourages you. A new friendship will give you hope for things to come. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Lend a helping hand to a group you believe in. It's a new beginning, so don't waste time on what's behind. Focus on the future. You can turn something you volunteer for into a paying contract. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are capable of bringing about changes that will have an impact on those around you. You are sensitive, caring and in tune with what's required to maintain order.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				2			1	
		7			1			9
	9	5				4		
				8			2	
5			7		4			3
	8			9				
		4				8	5	
2			6			1		
	5			3				

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/14

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	6	2	1	5	3	7	4	9
7	1	5	4	9	8	3	2	6
3	9	4	6	2	7	5	1	8
2	8	1	7	6	4	9	3	5
9	7	3	2	1	5	6	8	4
4	5	6	8	3	9	1	7	2
1	3	9	5	4	2	8	6	7
5	2	8	3	7	6	4	9	1
6	4	7	9	8	1	2	5	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/13

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

EARNING YOUR GOLDEN GLOVES **Solution: 6 letters**

N	(L)	S	T	H	G	I	E	W	Y	L	F	W	S	R
D	(A)	H	T	K	O	O	H	L	E	C	O	O	T	E
I	(O)	L	E	I	S	A	L	L	O	U	C	R	N	G
N	(G)	N	P	A	M	T	T	D	N	C	O	H	E	I
J	O	B	A	A	V	I	E	D	E	I	A	T	M	O
U	S	I	T	T	T	Y	L	K	D	N	C	L	A	N
R	T	E	T	C	E	O	W	A	C	R	H	H	N	A
Y	U	S	E	I	H	O	R	E	U	I	C	X	R	L
R	O	P	R	E	T	A	L	O	I	N	T	E	U	A
O	K	O	S	A	F	E	M	Y	U	G	N	Y	O	C
S	C	R	O	U	G	H	P	P	M	N	H	A	T	I
N	O	T	N	H	C	T	A	M	I	P	D	T	H	S
O	N	O	V	I	C	E	R	W	O	O	I	S	G	Y
P	K	S	R	E	N	I	A	R	T	C	N	C	I	H
S	S	V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R	S	S	F	P

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Amateur, Annual, Champions, Coach, Code, Competition, Donate, Fight, Flyweight, Goal, Golden, Heavyweight, Hook, Injury, Knockouts, Limits, Local, Match, Novice, Olympic, Patterson, Physical, Plan, Punch, Radio, Regional, Ring, Rough, Rounds, Safe, Sponsor, Sport, Throw, Tickets, Title, Tournaments, Trainers, Trophy, Volunteers, Winner, Wound

Yesterday's Answer: Diploma

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume. $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Press Syndicate, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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WHATZIT Solution: Run out of luck

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Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF JOSEPH JAMES CAMACHO TUDELA, Petitioner.	FCD-CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0261 NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for Name Change was filed in the above entitled Court. A hearing has been set for the above-entitled matter and will be held in Courtroom 205 A of the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the House of Justice-Guma Hustisia-Imwal Aweewe, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at 1:30 p.m. on the 1st day of June, 2009.

Dated this 6th day of May, 2009.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

VIOLA ALEPUYO
Attorney-at-Law
2nd Floor, J.E. Tenorio Bldg. Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 5506 CHRB
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Phone (670) 233-8535/36/37
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Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME OF JOHN TENORIO LEON GUERRERO aka JUAN TENORIO DELEON GEURRERO aka JUAN TENORIO GUERRERO, Petitioner.	FCD-CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0260 NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition for Name Change was filed in the above entitled Court. A hearing has been set for the above-entitled matter and will be held in Courtroom 205 A of the Commonwealth Superior Court, located at the House of Justice-Guma Hustisia-Imwal Aweewe, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at 1:30 p.m. on the 1st day of June, 2009.

Dated this 6th day of May, 2009.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Lakers bounce back to beat Rockets

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kobe Bryant needed only three quarters to score 26 points and the Los Angeles Lakers bounced back from their Game 4 flop, routing the Houston Rockets 118-78 on Tuesday night to take a 3-2 lead in the Western Conference semifinals.

The top-seeded Lakers did everything they didn't do in Sunday's 99-87 loss at Houston - hustled, rebounded and played tight defense on Houston's smaller lineup, keeping Aaron Brooks in check and limiting wide-open shots.

On Sunday the Lakers trailed by 29 points. On Tuesday night, they had a 29-point lead by late in the second quarter, on a 3-pointer by Bryant, who led seven Lakers in double figures.

The Lakers can wrap up the series Thursday night in Houston.

"We've got to stay focused and understand that the effort we gave tonight is not going to be enough on Thursday. It's just not," Bryant said. "We're not playing some chump team. I don't care how many people they have out. This is a tough team, it's a tough team full of competitors."

The Rockets played their second game without Yao Ming, who sustained a season-ending stress fracture in his left foot in Game 3.

Bryant looked more like himself after being held to 15 points on Sunday. With the Lakers far ahead after holding the Rockets to only 15 points in each of the second and third quarters, he sat out the fourth period.

"We played just the opposite we did the last game," Houston coach Rick Adelman said. "We turned it over in the first half, shot it poorly. We said if we turn it over against this team we're going to be in big trouble. That's exactly what we did.

"It just kind of fed their energy level. The second and third quarters are about as bad as we've played in a long time."

Pau Gasol had 16 points and 13 rebounds, Andrew Bynum 14 points, Trevor Ariza 13 and Jordan Farmar 12. Lamar Odom and Josh Powell had 10 apiece.

Brooks was held to 14 points after scoring a career-high 34 on Sunday. Ron Artest had a horrible night shooting, 4-of-15 for nine points. The Rockets shot only 32 percent.

The Lakers fell behind by six points midway through the first quarter, but it didn't take them long to answer the question of whether they'd show up.

AP

Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant, right, puts up a shot past Houston Rockets' Luis Scola as the Lakers' Pau Gasol looks on in the first half during Game 5 of a second-round NBA playoff series in Los Angeles, Tuesday, May 12, 2009.

Los Angeles gained control by outscoring Houston 23-6 during the final six minutes of the first quarter. Bryant had eight points, making three straight shots at one point. Odom sank a 3-pointer and Farmar another 3 at the buzzer for a 35-24 lead.

With Bryant sitting out at the start of the second quarter, the Lakers didn't lose any of their intensity, going on an 8-0 run to push the lead to 43-24. Gasol made a hook shot and two free throws, Odom made two free throws and Sasha Vujacic blocked a shot by Von Wafer, raced down the court and took a pass from Gasol for a slam dunk.

With Houston going cold, the Lakers piled it on, taking a 64-35 lead on Bryant's 3-pointer with 1:31 before halftime. It was 64-39 at the break.

Celtics 92, Magic 88

At Boston, Ray Allen's 3-pointer with 1:20 left gave Boston its first lead since the opening minutes and the Celtics beat the Orlando Magic 92-88 on Tuesday night to take a 3-2 lead in the Eastern Conference semifinals.

Stephon Marbury scored all of his 12 points in the fourth quarter, keeping the Celtics in the game after a lackluster 36 minutes that left them trailing by 14 with 8:49 to play. Orlando led 85-75 with 5:39 left, then Boston scored the next 13 points to open an 88-85 lead before Rashard Lewis' free throws with 7.3 seconds left.

Paul Pierce had 19 points, nine rebounds and eight assists, Kendrick Perkins grabbed 11 rebounds, and Game 4 hero Glen "Big Baby" Davis scored 10 of his 22 points in the fourth quarter. Davis also grabbed the rebound and hit a pair of free throws after Dwight Howard intentionally missed a free throw with 5.9 seconds left.

"It's all about never giving in and having the heart of a champion," Pierce said.

Howard had 12 points and 17 rebounds for Orlando, which needs a victory in Game 6 on Thursday night to force the series back to Boston for a decisive seventh game.

Lewis scored 19 and Hedo Turkoglu had 18 with seven assists for the Magic, who almost blew a 28-point lead in Game 1, then lost Game 4 on Sunday when Davis hit a 21-foot buzzer-beater.

Davis hurt them again on Tuesday, but he didn't wait quite as long.

Mickael Pietrus dunked on an alley-oop to make it 77-63 with 8:49 left, Orlando's biggest lead of the game, and Celtics coach Doc Rivers disgustedly called a timeout.

But Marbury hit a 3-pointer, then another jumper, and after Davis sank a pair of hook shots, Marbury converted a three-point play to make it 83-75. Turkoglu made a jumper to extend the lead to 10 points before Rivers put Pierce, Perkins and Rajon Rondo back in the game with 4:55 left.

Two jumpers by Davis, a layup by Pierce and a reverse from Perkins made it 85-83. Davis missed a potential game-tying shot with 1:55 left, but Allen made up for it by putting Boston ahead with a 3-pointer—just his third basket of the game.

Orlando had a chance to take back the lead when Rondo's 3-pointer as the 24-second clock expired seemed to skim only the net as it came down, and the shot clock buzzer went off. But Perkins, who had grabbed the rebound, argued vociferously that the ball tipped the rim, and the referees overruled the call, giving the ball back to Boston with just 37 seconds left and allowing them to run the clock down to the final seconds.

NBA BRIEFS

Birdman better, Nuggets still upset by Mavs fans

DENVER (AP)—The Denver Nuggets returned from Dallas with a bad taste in their mouths and it had nothing to do with Chris "Birdman" Andersen's nasty case of food poisoning. Andersen said between bites of mashed potatoes Tuesday that he's recovered from his sour stomach that kept him out of the Nuggets' 119-117 loss to the Mavericks the previous night. "I feel really good now," Andersen said after getting additional IVs and shooting some baskets. He said he can't wait for Game 5 Wednesday night at the Pepsi Center when the Nuggets try to clinch their first trip to the Western Conference Finals in 24 years. His teammates are equally eager to take out their frustrations on the basketball court. They're upset with the way their families and friends were treated Monday night at American Airlines Center, where fans hurled insults at Kenyon Martin's girlfriend, rap star Trina, and where Carmelo Anthony's girlfriend, LaLa Vazquez of MTV fame, was removed from her seat by security guards for her safety.

Collins backs off talk on 76ers vacancy

LOS ANGELES (AP)—TNT analyst Doug Collins apologized to Philadelphia 76ers president Ed Stefanski for mistakenly saying he spoke to the team about its open coaching job. Collins had told The Associated Press on Tuesday night before Game 5 of the Rockets-Lakers series he had talked with the Sixers about their vacancy "like two or three times." "Whatever they want to do, they know where I am if they want to call," he said. Collins, a former NBA coach, then backtracked on his original comments during the game and denied speaking with Stefanski. "I have not spoken to them. And I want them to understand that," Collins said on TV. "I feel very badly if there was a miscommunication there at all." He added: "I apologize to Eddie Stefanski if they felt like I was putting something out there that was not true."

Pacers' Granger wins NBA's Most Improved award

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Danny Granger told a storybook tale of how he learned he'd been selected the NBA's Most Improved Player.

The Indiana Pacers star offered a picturesque image of riding in a gondola in Venice, Italy, with one hand in the water and wind blowing through his hair.

Much of that was indeed a story—he was in Venice, but in his hotel room instead of a boat when he heard the news. Upon coming clean at a news conference on Tuesday, those in the room broke into laughter.

"I can honestly say it really did come as a surprise," he said. "I really had it out of my mind for a while. I was on vacation, enjoying Italy, and all of a sudden, I'm winning the award."

He edged New Jersey Nets guard Devin Harris 364-339 in voting from a panel of 121 journalists. Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant was third with 83 points.

The storybook tale was almost believable because of Granger's remarkable last eight months.

Granger averaged a career-best 25.8 points this season, made his All-Star team debut and accepted an invitation to train with USA Basketball in July. That all happened after he signed a five-year, $65 million contract extension.

Granger improved his scoring average by at least five points in each of the past three seasons. He averaged 7.5 points as a rookie out of New Mexico, 13.9 in his second season and 19.6 in 2007-08.

Granger had the NBA's fifth-highest scoring average this season.

"I think in my fourth year, I just had the experience of playing a lot of minutes," he said. "I could read defenses a lot better. I could get my shot a lot easier than what I had in the past. I think I just thought my way through the game a little more than I had previously."

Granger's success has been a welcome change for a franchise that has had numerous off-the-court problems the past several years.

"He is the face of our franchise, and he handles himself well on the court and off," team president Larry Bird said. "I think going forward, he will continue to do the things he's doing, and continue to improve. That's all you can ask for."

The USA Basketball training camp is the first phase in selecting the squad for the 2012 Olympics in London. Bird, who has said he believes Granger can be an Olympian, said the camp will be good for Granger.

"There's a lot of talent over there, and most of the guys lead their teams—probably all of them do," Bird said. "I think Danny being associated in the mix, he's going to learn from that, and he'll bring that back."

Granger elevated his game in January. He averaged 34.7 points and shot 49 percent over a six-game stretch that began on Jan. 3 against Western Conference teams.

Then he began making dramatic shots. He drained a game-winning 3-pointer over two-time MVP Steve Nash on Jan. 7 in Phoenix, then made a game-tying jumper late in regulation before the Pacers beat Detroit in overtime a week later.

He made another clutch shot on Jan. 19, a game-tying 3-pointer with 2.5 seconds left at New Orleans, before being one-upped by Chris Paul at the buzzer.

Granger missed 11 games in 2009 with a torn tendon in his right foot. He returned and averaged 28.4 points in 15 games the rest of the season.

Halladay outpitches Burnett as Jays beat Yanks

TORONTO (AP)—Roy Halladay pitched a five-hitter to best former teammate A.J. Burnett, Scott Rolen had three hits and three RBIs and the Toronto Blue Jays beat the New York Yankees 5-1 on Tuesday night.

Aaron Hill hit a solo home run for the Blue Jays, who improved to an AL best 23-12.

Halladay (7-1) walked none and struck out five to win his fourth straight start and improve to 16-5 in 33 career games against New York.

Alex Rodriguez had an RBI single in the seventh for the Yankees' run. Burnett (2-1) allowed five runs and seven hits in 7 2-3 innings and has not won since April 14. He walked four and struck out three.

AP

Toronto Blue Jays starting pitcher Roy Halladay throws against the New York Yankees during the first inning of a baseball game in Toronto, on Tuesday, May 12, 2009.

Orioles 7, Rays 5

At Baltimore, Adam Jones hit two home runs for the first time in his career and drove in four runs, leading the Baltimore past Tampa Bay.

Jones hit a solo shot in the first inning and a three-run drive in the second. Both homers—his seventh and eighth of the season—came off Andy Sonnanstine (1-4), who had allowed only one home run in 32 2-3 innings this season.

White Sox 7, Indians 4

At Cleveland, Jim Thome hit a pair of two-run homers to lead Chicago past Cleveland.

Both home runs were off Indians starter Jeremy Sowers (0-2), and Thome's 42nd multi-homer game gave him 547 for his career. Thome, who entered the game in a 3-for-22 slump, trails Mike Schmidt by one for 13th place on the all-time home run list.

Rangers 7, Mariners 1

At Arlington, Texas, Josh Hamilton returned from the disabled list and hit the go-ahead homer in a six-run seventh inning for Texas, which won for the eighth time in 10 games.

Hamilton, activated after missing 13 games with a strained ribcage muscle, struggled in his first three at-bats before his two-run shot off reliever Mark Lowe (0-1) gave the Rangers a 3-1 lead.

Twins 6, Tigers 2

At Minneapolis, Joe Mauer hit a home run, and was robbed of another by Clete Thomas, and Minnesota's struggling bullpen protected a lead for three innings.

Joe Crede homered for the Twins in his first at-bat after missing three games with a hamstring injury.

Athletics 12, Royals 3

At Oakland, Calif., Jack Cust hit a three-run homer in a seven-run second inning and Orlando Cabrera had three hits and four RBIs for Oakland.

Two days after getting shut out by Texas, the A's set a season-high for runs while pounding out 13 hits to snap a two-game losing streak.

Red Sox 4, Angels 3

At Anaheim, Calif., Jason Varitek drove in the go-ahead run with a double in the ninth inning and J.D. Drew homered for Boston.

Drew led off the ninth with a single against Scot Shields (1-3) and scored one out later when Varitek lined a 1-2 pitch to right-center.

Phllies 5, Dodgers 3

At Philadelphia, Chan Ho Park had his second straight effective outing to win his first game with Philadelphia, and Jayson Werth stole home to lead the Phillies to victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Park (1-1) has rebounded nicely after a dreadful start this season. He walked none and gave up two runs in six innings. Raul Ibanez continued to look like a smart pickup for the Phillies, hitting a two-RBI double in the fourth for a 4-2 lead.

Pirates 7, Cardinals 1

At Pittsburgh, Zach Duke limited St. Louis to three singles over eight innings after giving up a homer to Albert Pujols in the first and Pittsburgh ended an eight-game losing streak.

Adam LaRoche and Brandon Moss both broke out of slumps with homers for the Pirates.

Mets 4, Braves 3, 10 innings

At New York, Carlos Beltran drew a bases-loaded walk from Jeff Bennett (0-1) with two outs in the 10th inning and New York rallied to beat Atlanta.

Beltran also scored the tying run in the ninth for the Mets, who have won eight of nine. They were down 3-0 in the eighth but fought back to improve to 1-11 this season when trailing after seven innings.

Brewers 6, Marlins 3

At Milwaukee, Prince Fielder hit a pair of two-run homers and Rickie Weeks and Mike Cameron hit solo shots for Milwaukee.

It was the first time this season the Brewers hit four homers in a game. Milwaukee has won seven of its last nine and is five games over .500 since a 4-9 start.

Cubs 6, Padres 2

At Chicago, Milton Bradley hit a towering two-run homer off Jake Peavy and Rich Harden pitched six sharp innings for Chicago.

Alfonso Soriano and Kosuke Fukudom both had two doubles and three hits, Bobby Scales added his first major league home run and Harden (4-1) won his fourth straight decision for the Cubs.

Rockies 12, Astros 1

At Denver, Ian Stewart hit a grand slam and a solo homer and Ubaldo Jimenez pitched seven sharp innings for Colorado.

Stewart's second career grand slam was off reliever Tim Byrdak in the fifth inning. His five RBIs tied a career high.

Reds 3, Diamondbacks 1

At Phoenix, Brandon Phillips homered and drove in two runs for Cincinnati, and Micah Owings dominated his former team.

Owings (3-3), traded by Arizona last September, went seven innings and allowed one run and a season-low four hits. He walked two and struck out four.

Giants 9, Nationals 7

At San Francisco, Pablo Sandoval hit a three-run homer with two outs in the ninth, ending San Francisco's wild win.

Ryan Zimmerman extended his hitting streak to 30 games with two singles for hard-luck Washington, which has lost nine straight to the Giants.

Roger Clemens speaks; denies drug use—again

NEW YORK (AP)—Roger Clemens tried the silent treatment for more than a year and saw where that got him. With many fans believing allegations that the seven-time Cy Young Award winner used performance-enhancing drugs, he's now attempting a different strategy. Clemens hired a firm that guides high-profile figures through public relations crises, and Tuesday he broke his silence with a radio appearance.

Clemens again denied that former personal trainer Brian McNamee injected him with performance-enhancing drugs in a phone interview on ESPN's "Mike & Mike in the Morning."

"He's never injected me with HGH or steroids," Clemens said of McNamee's assertions to baseball investigator George Mitchell.

About three weeks ago, Clemens met in Houston with representatives from Washington-based Levick Strategic Communications. Levick senior vice president Gene Grabowski said Clemens was referred by his lawyers and agents.

"Because of the litigation, he felt obligated on advice of counsel not to speak," Grabowski said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "What he learned in that year was that by not speaking no one was going to tell his story."

Recalled Clemens, "They came in and said, 'You need to get your story out about all this garbage that is being said.'"

Clemens said he chose to speak out Tuesday because it was the release date of a book about his alleged drug use.

"It's important for me to do that," he said. "I've seen excerpts of the book and they're completely false. ... You know, guys, it's piling on. It's hurtful at times. But I'm moving on."

Clemens appeared on CBS' "60 Minutes" in January 2008, then held a news conference the next day. But he had stayed quiet since testifying before Congress the following month.

While "American Icon: The Fall of Roger Clemens and the Rise of Steroids in America's Pastime" was officially released Tuesday, its revelations were not new to the public. The book, by four New York Daily News reporters, recaps previous reports in the newspaper. It had been available to reviewers and had excerpts published before Tuesday.

Clemens is under investigation by a federal grand jury in Washington that is trying to determine whether he lied when he told a congressional committee that he had not used illegal performance-enhancing drugs. Clemens said he had not been summoned to testify before the grand jury.

He also has sued McNamee for defamation. While not mentioning McNamee by name, Clemens said Tuesday that "you've got somebody that's out there that is really just crawling up your back to make a buck."

"This, in my view, is going to backfire, because he's publicly now poking a stick in Congress' eye," McNamee's lead lawyer, Richard Emery, told the AP in a phone interview. "And, to me, all that's going to do is vitalize the prosecutors going forward. Nobody, for a minute, thinks he's not a liar just because he's talking."

Clemens said he had given a DNA sample to federal investigators but that syringes provided by McNamee would not link him to performance-enhancing drug use.

"It's impossible because he's never given me any," Clemens said.

Clemens' radio appearance returns him to the spotlight as other stars had replaced him as the most visible reminders of baseball's drug scandal. Alex Rodriguez admitted before the season that he had used steroids, and Manny Ramirez was suspended last week for violating MLB's drug policy.

Clemens said he had not followed either situation closely. The Ramirez case proved "the testing program we have set up in Major League Baseball is great," he said.

Clemens said he was sad to hear about Rodriguez.

"I wish him the best, tell him to move forward, continue to do what he's doing," he said.

Los Angeles Dodgers manager Joe Torre said he hoped for the best with Clemens.

"He was like a son to me for a period of time. I feel for him. I don't know an answer, but I feel for him," Torre said before Tuesday night's game in Philadelphia.

Clemens played for Torre with the New York Yankees.

"In Roger's case, as big a star as he's been in this game, I'd hate to have people diminish what he's accomplished, which is happening. I'm not trying to talk people out of it," he said.

"When Roger sits there and tells you things, knowing the confidence level that he has, I'm sure he believes a lot of stuff. That's who he is as a personality. That's Roger," he said.

Grabowski said Clemens would decide whether he wanted to do any more interviews after he returns from an upcoming vacation.

Clemens repeated his much-lampooned use of the word "misremembers" about friend and former teammate Andy Pettitte's statement that Clemens told him he used HGH. He said he has spoken to Pettitte a few times, but not about the drug allegations.

"I don't care to even comment on that or anything, OK?" Pettitte said Tuesday night before the Yankees played at Toronto.

Clemens said it would have been "suicidal" for him to use steroids because of a history of heart problems in his family.

"Everywhere I've gone and gotten the opportunity to speak to young kids or college kids, I take a lot of pride in telling those boys to get after it and do things the right way and take care of your body, because I know how I did it; I know how hard I worked," Clemens said. "For some of that to come in question, of course it's hurtful. But it's not going to break my spirit."

All set for Ronelsie Cup tonight

Caisip

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Watanabe

The island's top cue artists will play in a once in a blue moon tournament dubbed as Ronelsie Cup at Round Two Bar and Grill tonight.

Certified pool sharks like Roger "The Ghost" Espiritu, Jerry Soriano, and Rolly Villanueva will be among the participants of tonight's poolfest, which gathers for the first time in one roof and brings weekly champions of Top Pool Bar's regular Thursday 8-Ball Tournament.

Aside from Espiritu, Soriano, and Villanueva, also vying for the Ronelsie Cup are Chester Hamoy, Eric Santos, Senen Pangilinan, Nolan Cultura, Eric Caisip, Primo Ferrera, Boyet Sequioco, Juancho Mendoza, Patrick Taitano, Taylor Watanabe, Jomer Enriquez, and Victor Hocog.

Named after tournament sponsors Ronnie and Elsie Ringor, the special tournament will be a race-to-three and race-to-five affair that will use a single elimination format. It has an entry fee of $20. It starts promptly at 8:30pm.

The winner of the unofficial battle of pool champions will receive a trophy and a cash prize. The runner-up will also take home money and a medal.

If successful, the Ronelsie Cup will become a familiar event at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole with organizers holding the event every quarter.

Round Two Bar and Grill's regular 8-Ball tournament is held every Thursday with a $10 entry fee. Games start at 9pm. For more information about the competitions, contact Ricky Vertudez at 234-6930. ***(Mark Rabago)***

TOUGH

From Page 28

is to earn respect for the CNMI women's basketball program by being competitive.

"Our team is young, mostly high school students, who do not spend enough time playing the game of basketball all year round," Sewell said.

Yvonne and Yvette Bennett, Nikita Hofscheider, and Mercedita Mesa of Kagman Lady Ayuyus, Lia Rangamar and Jen Benavente of MHS Lady Dolphins, and Noelle Calvo and Nicole Lebria of Mt. Carmel School, are among the members of the CNMI Women's Nationals. Also on the team is veteran Connie Camacho.

The team is practicing six times a week between two and a half to three hours at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, hoping to work on their weaknesses and capitalize on their strengths.

"They are still learning how to cool under fire. But their passing skills have gone way up and their ability to find an open spot is improving with each practice. To the team's credit, when we first started practicing against men's teams, we were losing by 30 to 35 points per game. Now, the last two times out we lost by 12 and won one by four," Sewell said.

"We have some shooters who have both short range accuracy and downtown capability and when left open they have the ability of making a defense pay. If our passing game keeps improving, our shooting should improve, too, because we will get more open shots," the Fall River, Massachusetts native added.

Sewell also believes being decisive on fastbreak plays and keeping quick pace are important.

"We should be able to run, run, and run. It is going to be extremely important that we are still able to run in the fourth quarter like we can run in the first. Making short crisp quick passes to the open man right away needs work, too, as we think too much before we pass," Sewell said.

The CNMI cagebelles will be up against towering players from New Zealand and if they make it to the succeeding rounds, the hosts may also face tall frontliners from Australia, Tahiti, and New Caledonia. A consistent running game is one of the offensive options against teams with taller players, who may neutralize foes in a halfcourt and slowdown offensive set.

Defensively, Sewell is looking for more aggressiveness.

"We still hold back too much. We are too polite. We do not mix it up enough under the boards. We shy away from contacts. Playing under the boards is nothing but contact," said the former FSM National Basketball Team coach.

"If we want to give other teams a good fight, in the next five weeks we have to jell as a team, understand what each person's responsibilities are and trust that our partners on the court will carry out their responsibilities," Sewell added.

28

From Page 28

Participants started the run/walk from Taga Beach to the scenic lookout where the Limestone Trail is located and back to Taga Beach.

Termites greeted runners/walkers at the start of the event, but when darkness fell, participants enjoyed a smooth cruise.

"There were termites, but the termite frenzy lasted only a few minutes," Manglona said. "Then the full moon came out from behind the horizon and they disappeared, and from thereon it was a good time for everyone."

Ken Mojica completed the run course of the six-mile event around 50 minutes and later one runner after another was safely back at Taga Beach.

"Ken is a cross country runner and a really good runner," Manglona said. "This event really brought out the true talents of our youth, and it shows that they were just waiting for something like this."

Other finishers were Rajendra Rijal, Joeray Manglona, Kedar Shrestha, Juan Atalig, Fe Lumangles, Paula Evangelista, Velma Reyes, Eugene Mendiola, and Kevan Clawson.

"We hope there can be more sports events for the kids and for adults, too," Manglona added.

Registration fees collected from the fun run were donated to Tinian Athletic Sports Association.

Meanwhile, King and Manglona thanked the following for supporting the Moonlight Run: Tinian Mayor's Office, DFS Galleria, Pacific Trading Co., and Sen. Jude Hofschneider.

YANG

From Page 28

Togawa (76); Sherlyn Jones (77); Lourdes Kim (77); Bennet Seman (77); Matilde Hocog (78); Terue Ukita (78); Pilsun Kitami (79); Sujie Gusman (80); Lorraine Babauta (81); Terry Tudela (81); Noriko Togawa (82); Kimiko Abe (86); Grace Seo (86); and guest Terry Attao (gross 104).

Established in March 2007, CWGA is a nonprofit organization founded to promote, encourage, and introduce women to the sport of golf in the CNMI.

The organization intends to accomplish the following: 1. Promote civic and community interest in golf; 2. Establish and encourage competition and good sportsmanship; 3. Promote and provide social functions of the members and their families; 4. Promote youth golf activities; and 5. To do any or all things necessary and proper to accomplish its purpose and intention.

CWGA also commits its members to abide by a set of values that will further enrich a golfer's performance, attitude, and conduct—adopted from the USA Junior Golf Association.

The set of values members of CWGA are committed to faithfully are as follows: perseverance; sportsmanship; respect; honesty; judgment; responsibility; reliance; courtesy; and sincerity.

GARAPAN

From Page 28

De la Torre, who was sluggish in the first three periods after nailing only two points each in the first and second quarters and a free throw in the third, connected on three field goals and a charity in the payoff quarter.

Macoto was the most consistent offensive threat for Gigolos. He had nine markers at halftime, added seven in the third before closing out the fourth with nine points for a team-high 25 points. Three-point gunner James Abuy also helped Gigolos' cause. He drilled five points in the fourth after making 14 in the first half.

On Monday's playoff game, the sixth-seeded MDX Amigos used a 30-15 scoring in the fourth canto to stun the fifth-ranked Gualo Rai Bombers, 93-81.

Nelson Samson anchored Amigos' fourth-quarter attack, scoring 11 points. Bernard Montano added six, Butch Sublemente and Martin Moreno had four apiece and Bong Malasarte and Ian Castro combined for five points.

The Bombers led by as much as nine points at halftime, 47-38, and were still in front at the end of the third period, 66-61, before they ran out of artillery in the fourth canto.

No Bombers players made more than two field goals in the payoff quarter, as the best Danny Bicera and Ed Cosino could do was tally four points apiece.

With the loss, the Bombers were booted out of the tournament, joining Wild Boys, Marianas Ice, and Marianas Wireless in the showers.

Gigolos advanced to the next round against the second-seeded Jaypers, while Amigos will play Ebisuya in the other playoff game this Saturday. Winners of the two matches will join pennant champion C.K. Legends to the next round. Once the league is down to three teams, the first two squads to win two games will meet in a best-of-three title series.

Sunday's Game

Garapan Gigolos 92 – Macoto 25, Abuy 19, De la Torre 12, Carino 10, Fernandez 6, Brien 5, Domingo 5, Cortez 2, Galsote 2, Barros 2.

Wild Boys 86 – Abedes 38, Vargas 15, Tengco 14, R. Dizon 8, Bonto 3, N. Dizon 3.

Scoring by quarters: 19-22, 45-45, 66-65, 92-86.

Monday's Game

MDX Amigo 93 – Montano 25, Samson 19, Sublemente 11, Malasarte 11, Moreno 8, Castro 7, Galulu 6, Canedo 4.

Gualo Rai Bombers 81 – Bicera 26, Cosino 15, Lansang 14, S. Ebuen 6, Garon 5, Pineda 5, Dayrit 3, O. Ebuen 3.

Scoring by quarters: 22-26, 38-47, 61-66, 93-81.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	23	12	.657	-
Boston	21	12	.636	1
New York	15	17	.469	6 1/2
Tampa Bay	15	19	.441	7 1/2
Baltimore	14	19	.424	8

Central Division

Detroit	17	14	.548	-
Kansas City	18	15	.545	-
Minnesota	16	17	.485	2
Chicago	15	16	.484	2
Cleveland	12	22	.353	6 1/2

West Division

Texas	18	14	.563	-
Los Angeles	16	15	.516	1 1/2
Seattle	15	17	.469	3
Oakland	12	18	.400	5

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	18	14	.563	-
Philadelphia	16	14	.533	1
Florida	17	16	.515	1 1/2
Atlanta	16	17	.485	2 1/2
Washington	10	21	.323	7 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	20	13	.606	-
Cincinnati	19	14	.576	1
Milwaukee	19	14	.576	1
Chicago	18	14	.563	1 1/2
Houston	14	18	.438	5 1/2
Pittsburgh	13	19	.406	6 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	22	12	.647	-
San Francisco	18	14	.563	3
Colorado	13	18	.419	7 1/2
San Diego	13	20	.394	8 1/2
Arizona	13	21	.382	9

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 7, St. Louis 1
Philadelphia 5, L.A. Dodgers 3
N.Y. Mets 4, Atlanta 3, 10 innings
Milwaukee 6, Florida 3
Chicago Cubs 6, San Diego 2
Colorado 12, Houston 1
Cincinnati 3, Arizona 1
San Francisco 9, Washington 7
Baltimore 7, Tampa Bay 5
Chicago White Sox 7, Cleveland 4
Toronto 5, N.Y. Yankees 1
Texas 7, Seattle 1
Minnesota 6, Detroit 2
Boston 4, L.A. Angels 3
Oakland 12, Kansas City 3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inter-Govt/Business Slow-pitch Softball League

Budweiser's Mel Tenorio, third left, joins winners in the home run race, from left, Pauline Tudela, Liz Lebria, Mel Sakisat (representing Bert Camacho), Kuki Pangelinan, and Angie Ngirbedul.

Members of pennant champion NMC Proa celebrate their title win over Finance with NMC president Carmen Fernandez, first row second left, during the awards ceremony for the Budweiser 2008-2009 Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Far right, members and coaching staff of Finance pose with their runner-up trophy.

Right, members of DCCA flash the No. 4 sign for claiming the men's championship for fourth straight time.

Left, league coordinators Liz Palacios, left, and Liz Lebria presents a plaque of appreciation to MARPAC, represented by Mel Tenorio, for supporting the annual event.

Far left, men's division runner-up Beach Boys pose with their supporters.

Photos And Text By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Finals MVP Julian Camacho of DCCA.

Finals MVP Felisa Brel of NMC Proa.

Triples king Pete Teigita, right, of Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Batting race champion Payton Sakuma of Docomo Pacific.

All set for Ronelsie Cup tonight

The island's top cue artists will play in a once in a blue moon tournament dubbed as Ronelsie Cup at Round Two Bar and Grill tonight.

26

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Lakers bounce back to beat Rockets

Kobe Bryant needed only three quarters to score 26 points and the Los Angeles Lakers bounced back from their Game 4 flop, routing the Houston Rockets 118-78 on Tuesday night to take a 3-2 lead in the Western Conference semifinals.

24

Tough task ahead for cagebelles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Getting intimidated by taller and experienced players is the least of the CNMI Women's Nationals' worries when they compete in the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament next month.

"They will go to the court with an attitude that they will not be intimidated by any team they face," said CNMI Women's Nationals coach William "Bill" Sewell Jr.

Sewell's young and inexperienced players are heading for a tough competition and the 59-year-old coach's task is to make sure his wards will not be overwhelmed by their favored opponents through drills and rigorous training sessions.

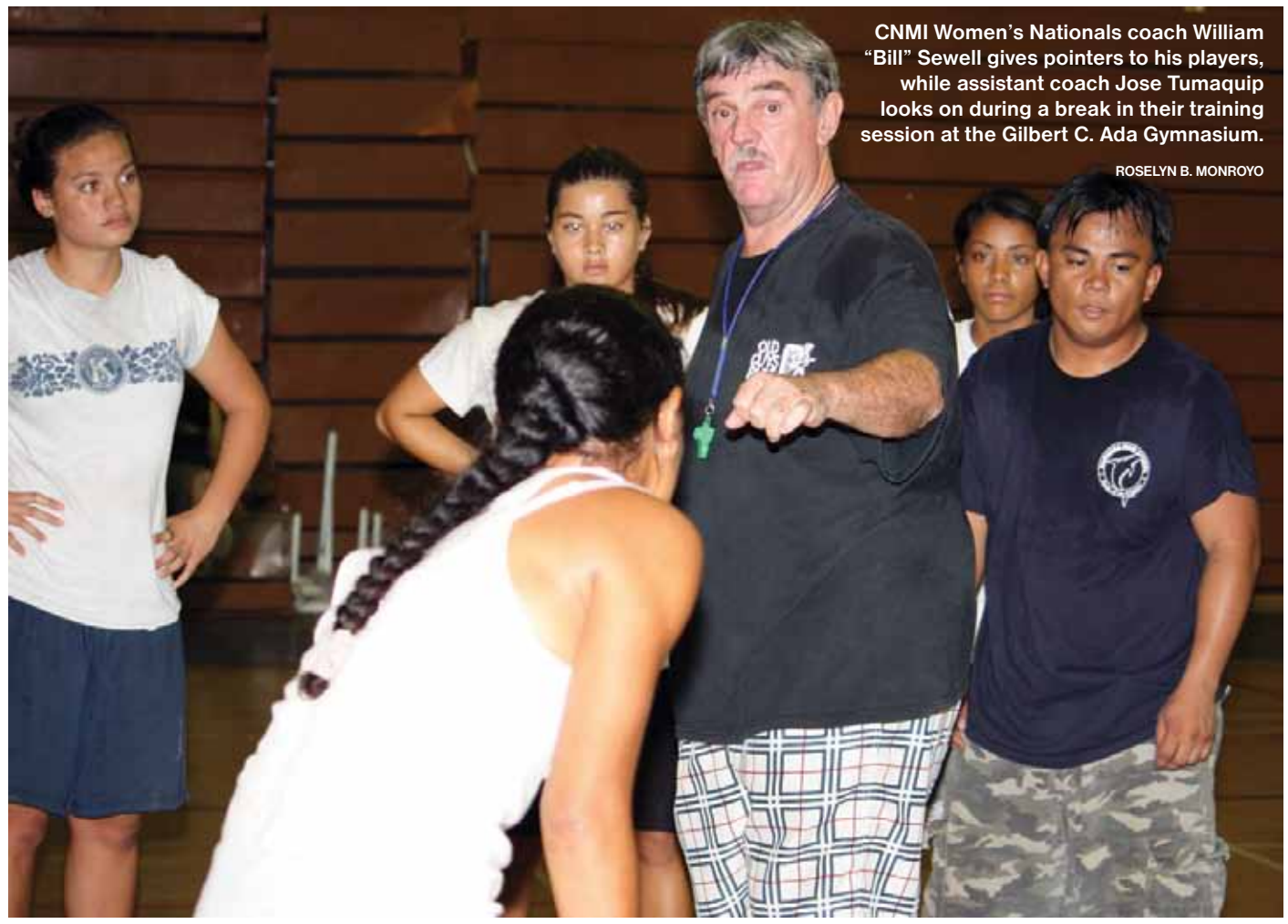
The CNMI Women's Nationals are in Pool A of the Oceania caging and will play Guam, New Zealand, and defending SPG gold medalist Fiji. Pool B is consists of Tahiti, New Caledonia, Palau, and Australia.

"We will be playing against some female athletes who will be able to move like guys, shoot like guys, and play physically strong like guys, so we do not practice against girls, but against guys in the late teens or early 20s," Sewell said.

The 30-year coaching veteran said this type of scrimmage is hard for the CNMI Women's Nationals as they play against guys after having run drills for about two hours.

But Sewell said the girls are up to the challenge, as their goal

See TOUGH on Page 26



CNMI Women's Nationals coach William "Bill" Sewell gives pointers to his players, while assistant coach Jose Tumaquip looks on during a break in their training session at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

28 take part in Tinian Moonlight Fun Run

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Inaugural Tinian Moonlight Fun Run top finisher Ken Mojica, right, of Tinian High School, receives a finisher's T-shirt from event organizer and triathlete Joshua Manglona.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Inaugural Tinian Moonlight Fun Run drew 28 participants, who all enjoyed a leisurely walk and run under the May full moon last Saturday at Taga Beach.

"There were a lot of participants, more than we expected," said Joshua Manglona, who co-organized the event with fellow Tinian triathlete Janet King. "The people were all smiles, because they were happy to have something like this."

King said the idea of having the fun run/walk came out to take advantage of the May full moon and spice up a healthy and positive event for youth of Tinian.

See 28 on Page 26

Yang victorious in women's May tournament

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Kyung A. Yang topped the CNMI Women's Golf Association Monthly Tournament after shooting a net score of 68 last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf resort west course.

Yang came away with a gross score of 91 following a 45 and 46 in the front and back nine. Her score was then sliced to 68 by virtue of her 23 USGA handicap.

Masayo Miyamoto finished second in the May edition of the women's golfest after registering a net 71. The 11-handicapper carded an 82 following a 39-44 record in the greens.

Dolores Yamagishi came in third with her net of 72 built around a gross score of 95 (46-49) and 23 handicap.

A total of 21 CWGA members took part in the May tournament. The name of the players, with their scores in parenthesis, are as follows: Shiori Onoue (73); Sachiko Adachi (73); Yang Kim (75); Ching Lin Wang (75); Yuko

See YANG on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI Women's Golf Association members pose following the May CWGA Monthly Tournament held last Saturday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort west course.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Garapan Gigolos' Adonis Macoto drives against two Wild Boys defenders during their playoff game in the Masters division of the Navy Hill caging Sunday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Garapan, MDX outlast opponents

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Garapan Gigolos and MDX Amigos saved the best for last to slip past separate foes in the playoff round of the Masters division in the 2009 Navy Hill Friendship Basketball League at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Gigolos drew big contributions from Adonis Macoto and Ferdinand De la Torre in the fourth quarter to turn a 65-66 third quarter deficit to a six-point win over Wild Boys, 92-86, Sunday night. Macoto and Dela Torre nailed nine and seven points in the payoff canto, respectively, as Gigolos outgunned the tired Wild Boys in the fourth period, 27-21.

Wild Boys played with only seven players and remained afloat in the first three quarters behind the sniping of Jun Abedes, Roland Tengco, and Bobby Vargas before fatigue slowed them down in the fourth canto.

Abedes and Tengco were the only Wild Boys to score more than four points in the fourth. Vargas went scoreless in the payoff quarter, while three others tallied only two points apiece.

See GARAPAN on Page 26